

shipping, and gain a view of the sandy plain and distant mountains, with Robben's Island and Green Point in the distance.

Among the objects of interest at the Cape, is the Botanical Garden of the Baron von Ludwig. To his liberality we are much indebted for plants and seeds; and in fact every thing that our botanists desired was placed at their disposition. The garden is surrounded by a brick wall, and situated near the foot of the Lion's Rump; its soil was originally poor, but it has been much enriched by manure. The collection of plants, both native and exotic, is good, but the season of flowers was over. The native bulbs, which form the great beauty of the collections here, had passed, and but a few *Amaryllidæ*, and some varieties of the *Oxalis*, remained in bloom. Many curious specimens of African plants were noticed, particularly some *Zamias*, *Strelitzias*, *Aloes*, and *Testudinarias*. Of the former we brought home a fine specimen, whose fruit, which resembles in shape a large pine-apple, is eaten by the Bushmen, and is said to be palatable when properly prepared. The collection of East Indian plants was in fine order, and numerous specimens of the *Cacti* attracted our notice.

The portion of ground allotted as a flower-garden contains a fine collection of roses and dahlias, of ornamental shrubs and annuals. There is also a vegetable-garden, while fruit trees are interspersed here and there throughout the whole. The proprietor furnishes tickets of admission to all who desire them; but his rules and regulations as to the hour of entrance, and respecting the police of the garden, must be strictly observed.

The plants furnished us by the Baron have flourished admirably since our return.

Tanks of some extent have been erected by the government, to preserve water for the use of the town and shipping. I was not aware at first that any necessity for them existed, but was afterwards informed that the town has, at times, suffered severely from drought.

The climate of the Cape is usually considered salubrious, and particularly renovating to constitutions enfeebled by a long residence in India.

If one were to place full reliance on the assertions of its inhabitants, Cape Town and the surrounding country possess a perfection of climate to be met with in no other part of the world; but this, it is to be regretted, is not fully corroborated by the testimony of the meteorological registers that have been kept, as well as the experience of those who have written upon the subject. It has many peculiarities, and may be termed rather a cold climate for its latitude. The mean