

as paintings, and partly etched with much spirit. To this period belong the remarkably large oil pictures preserved in Denmark, in a gallery of the beautiful palace of Frederiksborg, which were painted by Eckhout, who, in 1641, was also on the Brazilian coast with Prince Maurice of Nassau. In these compositions, palms, papaws, bananas, and heliconias are most characteristically delineated, as are also brightly-plumaged birds, and small quadrupeds, and the form and appearance of the natives.

These examples of a delineation of the physiognomy of natural scenery were not followed by many artists of merit before Cook's second voyage of circumnavigation. What Hodges did for the western islands of the Pacific, and my distinguished countryman, Ferdinand Bauer, for New Holland and Van Diemen's Land, has been since done, in more recent times, on a far grander scale, and in a masterly manner, by Moritz Rugendas, Count Clarac, Ferdinand Bellermann, and Edward Hildebrandt; and for the tropical vegetation of America, and for many other parts of the earth, by Heinrich von Kittlitz, the companion of the Russian Admiral Lütke, on his voyage of circumnavigation.*

cients lamented the decay of nature. As I have spoken in the text of hot-house plants in contrast with those which grow naturally, I would add that the ancients frequently used the term "Adonis gardens" proverbially, to indicate something which had shot up rapidly, without promise of perfect maturity or duration. These plants, which were lettuce, fennel, barley, and wheat, and not variegated flowers, were forced, by extreme care, into rapid growth in summer (and not in the winter), and were often made to grow to maturity in a period of only eight days. Creuzer, in his *Symbolik und Mythologie*, 1841, th. ii., s. 427, 430, 479, und 481, supposes "that strong natural and artificial heat, in the room in which they were placed, was used to hasten the growth of plants in the Adonis gardens." The garden of the Dominican convent at Cologne reminds us of the Greenland or Icelandic convent of St. Thomas, where the garden was kept free from snow by being warmed by natural thermal springs, as is related by the brothers Zeni, in the account of their travels (1388-1404), which, from the geographical localities indicated, must be considered as very problematical. (Compare Zurla, *Viaggiatori Veneziani*, t. ii., p. 63-69; and Humboldt, *Examen Critique de l'Hist. de la Géographie*, t. ii., p. 127.) The introduction in our botanic gardens of regular hot-houses seems to be of more recent date than is generally supposed. Ripe pine-apples were first obtained at the end of the seventeenth century (Beckmann's *History of Inventions*, Bohn's Standard Library, 1846, vol. i., p. 103-106); and Linnæus even asserts, in the *Musa Cliffortiana florens Hartecampi*, that the first banana which flowered in Europe was in 1731, at Vienna, in the garden of Prince Eugene.

* These views of tropical vegetation, which designate the "physiognomy of plants," constitute, in the Royal Museum at Berlin (in the de-