

The gardens about the city are bright during the whole season with an almost endless variety of roses, geraniums, verbenas, heliotrope, calla lilies, flowering shrubs, etc., giving a visitor from Canada the idea of summer in his native land. But in addition to the flowers and shrubs which he is familiar with at home, he will find here a great variety of tropical and semi-tropical plants and trees growing luxuriantly in gardens and in the avenues which could only be kept alive in a colder climate under glass. Specially noticeable among these is the palm tree, of which there are many varieties, and we find them growing in every garden, giving to the city a semi-tropical appearance that to a new-comer unaccustomed to such scenes is very interesting. The most beautiful among the shade trees is the pepper tree, a native of Peru, which was brought to this country a good many years ago, and grows very rapidly, making a good sized tree in from five to ten years. It is found on all the streets, with its graceful drooping branches, clusters of white blossoms or red berries, and foliage ever green, it is highly ornamental, and on a warm summer's day its cooling shade, like that of our own maple or chestnut, must be very refreshing. Then there is the tall, stately looking eucalyptus, with its long, dark leaves, which has been known to grow to a height of sixty feet in six years. It was brought from Australia, and in many places throughout the country it is planted for wind-breaks and frequently also for wood for fuel. It is said that in five or six years' growth half a cord of wood may be cut from one tree, and as there is a considerable scarcity of wood in many parts of this country it is likely to become very valuable for this purpose. In the gardens may also be found the acacia, with its canary yellow blossoms, the magnolia,

grevillea, rubber tree, cork, camphor, loquat, orange, lemon, lime, fig, apricot, persimmon, walnut, almond, and many others, with the names of which I am unacquainted. The city contains a population estimated at about 10,000, a large proportion of which has come during the past five years.

Over one hundred years ago the Franciscan Fathers established a mission here, and the building, which, however, has been rebuilt since that time, is still in a good state of repair. The older houses built by the Spaniards and Mexicans were all made of adobe (a kind of clay), and roofed with red tiles, and a good many of these old and rather picturesque buildings are still in existence, indeed there is still quite a number of Spaniards, Mexicans and Indians living in the older parts of the city. The larger part of the population is, however, American, and the old, interesting features of the town are fast disappearing, and will soon be entirely gone. It is not likely ever to become a great business centre; but as a pleasant, healthy place to live in, and as a popular resort in summer, as well as winter, for visitors from other parts seeking health, rest, or recreation, it must grow in importance and in popular favour as its fine climate and picturesque scenery become more widely known. It is seldom that one can find the rugged mountain, the wild and deep canyons, the quiet, peaceful valley, the deep, blue ocean, the sandy beach, and the clear sky, all brought together in such a delightful manner as here; and away from the city, on the foot hills, or in the valleys and canyons, among the evergreen live oaks and the sycamore trees, one may spend the days and the years, if so inclined, in quiet rest, "far from the busy haunts of men." This is a land specially adapted for fruit growing—the walnut, olive, almond, grape, peach, pear,