

Pothos scandens, whose jointed grassy stems and narrow foliage are seen creeping up the trunks of trees.

The graceful *Bamboo Cane* grows abundantly on the banks of brooks, where its thickly clustered stems are often waved by the wind, which causes these hollow reeds to emit a great variety of agreeable sounds. This plant attains its extreme height in the short course of one rainy season; during the following years it becomes woody, and shoots out lateral stems, but without any increase of size. The young sprouts are eaten like asparagus. There are several species described by Loureiro as natives of this place, but not having seen their inflorescence, we could not ascertain this point.

The plains consist alternately of woods and savannahs; but nothing can be poorer than the vegetation of the latter; consisting chiefly of two species of grass, which grow about eight feet high, and probably ripen their seeds in autumn. There are a very few dwarf plants, mostly of the leguminous tribes, and these grow under the shade of an arborescent species of *Bauhinia* which appears singly at considerable intervals. These savannahs are often set on fire, both to prepare them for cultivation, and that they may produce younger vegetation for the cattle.

A particular species of *Musa* (*Banana* or *Pisang*), of which the fruit is not esculent, is cultivated for the sake of its fibrous stem, and considered preferable to many others. The filaments (being the long vessels of its peduncle) extend the whole length of the stem, which is generally about eight feet; and they are of various degrees of fineness, according to their outer or inner situation. Thus the same plant affords the fibres of which are made the excellent anchor cables, almost exclusively employed by the Spanish vessels here, and that more delicate flax which is used in the manufacture of the fine striped cloths of which the cleanly people of these islands make very elegant shirts.

Another *Palm* grows here, (*Palma de Cabello negro*;) it yields a strong, black, coarse fibre, much esteemed for ropes and cables, and far preferable to what is obtained from the *Rotang*, which, though employed by the Chinese and many

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