

NOTICES RESPECTING THE BOTANY OF CERTAIN COUNTRIES VISITED BY THE RUSSIAN VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY UNDER THE COMMAND OF CAPT. KOTZEBUE. By AD. DE CHAMISSO.

[Translated from the German Edition of the Voyage.]

THE PHILIPPINE ISLES.

The beautiful woods which clothe the mountains and valleys of these islands with the most luxuriant green, descend also to the very brink of the sea, in groves of *Mangle Trees* (*Rhizophora*), and some other species. The transitory glance which we were enabled to gain of these forests from the public route, and the short distance to which we penetrated their recesses, are insufficient to enable us to describe them properly. *Fig Trees* appeared to be the prevailing kind of wood: some species supporting themselves as strong trees by their singularly interwoven stems and running roots, by which they clasp the rocks and twine over them. Other plants, of very slender stalks, raise themselves to an astonishing height, and while their leafy summits are lost above the leafy roof of the grove, their singular fruit is seen bursting from the lower part of their trunks. Some species retain a frutescent habit, while others climb. We missed in the woods the beautiful forms of the *Acacia Trees*, with their variously pinnated leaves; but numerous other genera of Leguminous Plants here exhibit their peculiar characteristics. The Ferns, (particularly the arborescent ones,) the Climbers, the Orchideæ, which, in Brazil, form almost self-supported gardens in the air, slightly attached to the summits of the trees, are here either entirely wanting, as the *Cacti* and *Bromeliaceæ*, or appear in very diminished numbers. The character which Nature wears is of a much tamer kind. The species of *Palm* are more numerous than in St. Catherine's, many of them are but inconspicuous, and the slender prostrate *Rotang* is indeed the most wonderful of them all. Amongst the Aroidæ is the

Philippine