

and gave goodly promise of a brilliant display in the autumn. A large number of the rarer Conifers are planted contiguous to the flower garden, and thriving exceedingly well—amongst them we observed a fine young plant of the new Chinese Cypress, *Cupressus funebris*, the largest specimen we have yet seen of it; also good plants of the Deodar, *Cryptomeria*, *Cupressus torulosa*, *Taxodium*, and indeed all the rarer Pinuses. The kitchen garden being on rather a limited scale, the most important feature we come to, is the principal range of hot houses, consisting of a large central house or Palm Stove about 60 feet by 50, and between 30 and 40 feet high; a wing from the north side is devoted to Orchideous plants, and on either side are Vineries, a Heathery and a peach house. The most observable feature of the Palm Stove, is that the plants appear to luxuriate in a state of nature, the only thing to be regretted, is the prospect of their becoming in a few years, impatient of the narrow limits which confine them. Indeed a noble specimen of the Sage Palm, *Sagus saccarifera*, whose leaves are as much as 30 feet long, and 8 feet wide, has already reached its utmost limits, and bids fairly, in the absence of other supports, to form a very substantial one in the centre of the house, that is, of course, provided its leaves do not think themselves above the task. We observed also a fine plant of *Caryota urens*, the Wine Palm, with leaves of a similar length, and in full flower—an excellent specimen of the Date, *Phoenix dactylifera*, the Oil Palm, *Elæis guineensis*, and *Lantana borbonica*, nearly 20 feet high. Among the tropical fruits, the Mango, *Mangifera indica*, may deservedly stand first on the list; it is a fine plant, completely loaded with fruit. On inquiry I found that upwards of 200 had "set" upon it, of which 50 were thinned out, the remaining number 150 being deemed as many as the plant was capable of bringing to perfection. Not very far from this, there stands a beautiful pyramidal specimen of the Clove, *Caryophyllus aromaticus*—it is about 23 feet high, and has the lower branches hanging over the edge of the tub. The Allspice Tree, *Pimenta vulgaris*, grows in a most luxuriant manner, and produces flowers and fruit in abundance, it is upwards of 30 feet in height; also the Nutmeg, *Myristica moschata*, and the Cinnamon, *Cinnamomum verum*, this latter is about 10 feet high. The Chocolate, *Theobroma cacao*, a fine specimen just coming into flower; others which we observed, were *Nephelium Litchi*, and *Nephelium Longan*, *Mammea Americana*, *Anona Cherimolia*, and the Star-apple, *Jambosa vulgaris*, covered with fruit, also the Jack fruit, and the Carica Papaya, the stem of the latter must be nearly a foot in diameter, and the Bambusa or Bamboo, with canes about 15 inches in circumference.

One of the most natural features in this house is the creepers; if the reader would just picture

a plant of *Allamanda cathartica*, growing beautifully wild amongst the Palms, and along the roof, apparently unrestrained by the artistic and order loving hand of man, covered with—I do not think I exaggerate when I say upwards of 1000 blooms, and that not for a day nor a week, but for months, he would be able to form some idea of its beauty and permanent excellence; other creepers are the *Combretum purpureum* and *Quisqualis indica*, the latter trained the whole length of the house, and flowering freely; another plant not to be passed over silently, is a fantastic and truly characteristic specimen of the Indian Rubber Tree, *Ficus elastica*, training itself up to the west end of the house, where it appears quite at home, sending out hundreds of gracefully hanging roots, many of which having gained the soil, were rendering considerable assistance to the old parent stem. We had almost omitted to notice the perfection in which the *Musa* or Banana is cultivated here. The two most fruitful varieties are *Musa Cavendishii* and *M. maxima*; the last year a bunch from the latter was exhibited at the Horticultural Society's rooms weighing no less than 133 lbs., some of the individual fruit being 11 oz. in weight, and 11 in. in length; The Collection of Orchids is both extensive and select; at the period of my visit there were several fine specimens of *Calanthe veratrifolia* in bloom; one had as many as 15 spikes of their pure white and delicate flowers just coming to perfection. The *Peristeria elata* or Dove plant was also sending up numerous spikes, and fine plants of *Cattleya labiata*, and *C. mossii*, in a condition which would warrant them no insignificant position on the richly decorated stages of metropolitan exhibitions. Various *Oncidiums* and *Dendrobiums* were also in bloom; and we observed a fine plant of the rare *Ansellia africana*, growing very luxuriantly, also large masses of *Cyrtopodium*, *Maxillaria*, &c.

The Vineries and Peach houses, by their excellent condition, gave good evidence that in the attention bestowed on the rarer tropical fruits, they were by no means forgotten. We passed through a beautiful house of Muscats, remarkable for the great regularity in size of the bunches, and the berries being far above the average standard; besides those in this range, there are two houses devoted to early forcing, which, if I mistake not, were at one period heated by polnaise—a circumstance I quite neglected to inquire into. In proceeding to the new tropical house, we passed among three ranges of span-roofed Pine pits each 60 feet by 15, and all heated by hot water in connection with one boiler. The Pines here are cultivated both on the planting out system and in pots; and under all circumstances, from the youngest to the oldest, they present a most healthy and vigorous appearance. There were numbers of very fine fruit just in admirable order for the decoration of