

greatest in the torrid zone, and diminish as you go toward the poles.

Among the most remarkable vegetables of the torrid zone are. the *sago palm*, which yields a juice so thick and nutritious that it is used for food ; the *bread fruit-tree* and *plantain*, which produce a fruit resembling bread ; the *teak* of India, which is used for ship building, and surpasses even the oak in firmness and durability ; the mighty *Baobab*, which grows on the banks of the Senegal, and attains a circumference of 60 and 70 feet ; and the great *fan palm* of India, one leaf of which will cover ten or a dozen men. The torrid zone also yields the most *fragrant spices* and the most *luscious fruits*.

17. Name some of the most noted vegetable of the temperate zones.

The lower latitudes of the temperate zones yield the *vine*, from the fruit of which wine is made ; the *mulberry* on the leaves of which the silk-worm feeds ; the *olive* which produces sweet oil ; *wheat*, *barley*, and other nutritious grain and *cotton*, which is now more extensively used for clothing than any other material.

In the higher latitudes of the temperate zones, wheat grows with difficulty, but *oats*, *hemp*, and *flax* are raised in perfection ; the pastures are rich and verdant with *grass* ; the forests yield the *oak*, the *ash*, the *elm*, &c., and the *apple*, *pear*, *cherry*, *currant*, *gooseberry*, &c., are abundant.

18. Describe the vegetation of the frigid zones.

In the frigid zones, and in some countries even as low as the parallel of 60°, nature assumes a gloomy and desolate aspect. The *pin*es and *firs* at first rear their tall heads and cover the hills with their constant mantle of dark green, but as you advance toward the north every species of vegetable which yields food to man entirely fails ; and nothing appears but dwarf trees, bushes and mosses.