

may be eaten as plucked, or roasted; and the plaintain, roasted before it is quite ripe, is one of the most agreeable articles of food. Roasted bread-fruit is very pleasant and nutritive; but the tree, though remarkably handsome and very productive, is not extensively cultivated, probably because it is one among so many. Nothing can exceed, nothing of the sort equals, the mucilaginous and highly nutritive ochropod, especially in soup. The celebrated soup called "pepperpot," is chiefly composed of meat, dried fish and pepper, and corresponds to the "mullagatawny" of the East Indies. The beautiful cabbage tree, or cabbage palm, growing in the mountains to the height of 150 feet and upwards, forms at its summit and just beneath its beautiful crown of foliage, between the foliage and the stem or as the youngest part of the stem, a leafy heart, which our own cauliflower cannot equal; but to obtain the precious morsel, the stately and ornamental tree must be ruthlessly felled. The avocado pear grows on a large tree; it is eaten as a vegetable (not like our own pear as a fruit), and usually with pepper and salt along with animal food; but its richness and fineness must be experienced to be understood. We have nothing that can at all compare with it. It is sometimes called "vegetable butter." For the invalid and for the thirsty traveller, no beverage can surpass the young coconut water; and the jelly of the young coconut is one of the most grateful and delicate of all fruits. Some of the fruits seem to want at the first, and to a European palate, a little of the European acidity and piquancy; but the pine-apple, the neesberry, the star-apple, the grenadillo, the guava, the mango, the custard apple, the sweet sop and the sour sop, the cherimoyer, the citron, the orange, the mammée, the shaddock, the pomegranate, the jack, the jamaica gooseberry, the Tahiti apple, the genip, the melon, the tamarind, the papaw, the cashew and others are found to afford great variety and fineness of flavour; and they all might be greatly improved by cultivation, which is scarcely ever bestowed on any of them; for agriculture, and not horticulture, has been the occupation of Jamaica, and is unquestionably its chief interest, though the fruit trade with New York is now increasing with increased facilities of transport. In the mountains are to be found the English strawberry, apple, pea,