

scarcely a house without its Banana plantation beside it. The Cassava (*Jatropha Manihot*), from which is prepared tapioca, is cultivated to a limited extent. It is a smooth shrubby plant three or four feet high, producing tubers or roots not unlike those of the dahlia, but much more massive and of a harder texture. Amongst the colored population a Christmas dinner is not complete without a Cassava pie, a poor substitute however for the plum pudding of the north. The third plant is the Arrowroot (*Maranta arundinacea*) growing three or four feet high, with large spear-head-shaped leaves, and bearing root-like tubers which mature in February. From these a starch is manufactured which, after going through several processes, is known as Bermuda Arrowroot and holds a high place in the market, but its place has been lately taken by the article now produced all through the West Indies, in Australia, and in the Fiji Islands.

There is a plant which I have been unable to place, neither can I find any description corresponding with it in the few botanical papers bearing on the flora of Bermuda. I am inclined to think it is a *Sanseveria*. Its leaves are from 18 to 24 inches long, and about three inches wide, smooth, leathery, of a dark green mottled with purple spots, like some of the Orchis tribe. The under side is purplish. When the leaves dry off they turn a greenish brown with the spots still showing, and are not unlike the back of a snake. It grows in shady places, about rock cuttings or disused quarries, preferring shade to the open. It was not in blossom during my stay.

Owing to the extreme moisture in the air, vegetation is always luxuriant, growth being sustained by the heavy dews and the great evaporation at night. These conditions approach the description of Eden, where "a mist went up from the garden and watered the face of the earth." The coral rock too is favorable to growth, and vegetation of all kinds flourishes apparently out of the face of the rock wherever fissures allow the roots to penetrate.