



WILD ARUMO, GROWING IN FIELD NEAR CAPE TOWN.—From a Photograph.

of Good Hope, and distant about twenty miles. Two ships of this squadron, the *Maggie* and the *Philomel* have just left for Delagoa Bay, where there is a rising of the native tribes in rebellion against the Portuguese Government.

Cape Town has a charming situation at the foot of Table Mountain and gives every evidence of being a modernly progressive city. It has a population of about 60,000, while its blocks of business, municipal and government buildings, its fine churches and schools, would do credit to the larger cities of our own country. Enough of the old Dutch buildings still remain to give character to the city and to render its early history particularly interesting.

The discovery of what is now Cape Colony was made by the Portuguese, who sent out three small vessels under Bartholomew Diaz to discover, if possible, a road by sea to India. He reached Algoa Bay, around the Cape of Good Hope, on Sept. 14th, 1486. Table Bay was first entered by Vasco da Gama in 1497, but the native bushmen and Hottentots proving anything but friendly, the bay for the next 150 years was little more than a port of call for the trading ships of Portugal, Holland, England and France. After Holland in 1579 secured her independence from Spain, her fleet became the strongest in Europe. In 1599 the English East Indian Company was formed with the object of trading with India by sea.

Three years later succeeded the formation of the Dutch East India Company, and in 1652 John Van Riebeck with 100 men arrived in Table Bay and took formal possession of the land where Cape Town now stands. Lands were acquired from the Hottentots for vine growing by the Huguenots who fled from France and were welcomed as settlers by the new Dutch Company. The climate and soil were

alike suitable, and extensive vineyards were planted. From that period, 1687-9, dates the large and profitable wine farming industry in Cape Colony. About twelve miles from Cape Town is the Government Experimental Farm, Groot Constantia, upon which are the largest vineyards in the Cape Peninsula. The estate was originally owned by one of the early Dutch Governors, Simon Vanderstell, and the spacious house, bearing date 1690, with its wine cellar and slave quarters, is a good example of the splendid homes of the colonists at that early period. No expense was spared in their construction. The bricks and huge floor tiles were

brought from Holland. The ceilings, doors and panel work almost invariably were made of teak wood, the walls were often richly frescoed, while statuary figures in bas-relief and elaborate Florentine scrolls were the customary interior decorations.

American grape vines are in great favor in South Africa, as on account of their hardiness and rugged growth they withstand better than any other vines the ravages of phylloxera. On these American vines are grafted the best known European varieties of wine grapes. Constantia is under the management of a most competent gentleman, Mr. DeWaal, and here is where the sons of the colonial farmers may come to acquire a careful training and thorough knowledge of wine and fruit farming. The way to Constantia leads through many pleasant suburbs, Rondebosch, Newlands, Wynberg, the favorite residence section to the south of Cape Town, along well kept roads and under splendid avenues of oak, fir and eucalyptus trees. A more delightful drive cannot well be imagined. It gives one many a pleasant passing glimpse of Table Mountain, the Lion's Head, Devil's Peak and the Drakenstein Mountains thirty miles away to the north. Even England or Southern California could hardly grow flowers to rival the roses that greet one from every garden. All sub-tropical plants grow luxuriously. Calla lilies, so rare with us, grow in great profusion wherever the ground is moist, or along the tiny streams trickling here and there from the mountain side. The lilies are called by the natives "Arumo" (pig lilies).

The most conspicuous modern buildings in Cape Town are the parliament buildings, the public library and museum, the Governor's residence, the Standard Bank, the large four-story stone building now in course of erection for the postal and telegraphic service. The old buildings especially attractive to the strangers are the castle and barracks near each other on opposite sides of the parade, and the old Lutheran church bearing date, 1672. Although the greater part of the castle is of a more recent date, the moat, drawbridge and gateway of the



NEWLAND'S AVENUE, NEAR CAPE TOWN.—From a Photograph.