

**Cream of Tartar Troos.**

Until within the past few years, it was thought that only one species could rightly claim the title of the cream of tartar tree—the *Adansonia Gregorii*, the gouty-stem tree of Northern Australia. Recent researches have, however, proved that the Baobab (*Adansonia digitata*) of Senegal contains nearly 2 per cent. of free tartaric acid, and nearly 12 per cent. of bitartrate of potassium. The acid is found in the farinaceous pulp surrounding the seed, and has at all times been highly esteemed by travelers, who mix it with a little water in order to make a refreshing beverage.

Until the discovery of the Mammoth tree of California and the Eucalypts, the *Adansonia* was considered the largest tree in the world. Its height is from 40 to 70 feet, and its diameter near the base is very often 30 feet, while the top is over 180 feet across. A Venetian who left us the most ancient description of the tree, tells us that in 1451 he found one at the mouth of the Senegal with a circumference of 112 feet. The tree is very disproportionate, as may be gathered from the fact that Gregory—after whom the Australian species is named—saw one 85 feet in circumference at a height of two feet from the ground. A missionary in Madagascar, writing some years back, speaks of the *Adansonia Madagascariensis*, an allied species, as the ugliest specimen of a tree he had ever beheld, and likened it to a fat two-gallon bottle the neck of which had been knocked off, and a few birch twigs placed there instead.

Not the least curious feature about these trees is the age some of them are supposed to have attained. From inscriptions Adanson discovered cut into the trunks of some trees in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, he computed—judging from the depths of the cuts, which were covered with new layers of wood, and from the comparison of the thickness of the trunks whose various ages were known—that the trees having a diameter of 32 feet were 5,150 years old.—*Rocky Mountain Druggist.*

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