

the esculent cocoa root, which, roasted or boiled like the potato, is the chief vegetable diet, called "bread-kind," of the labouring classes of Jamaica. Ginger is easily grown, but exhausts the soil. The indigo plant once greatly flourished in the English settlements. Pimento or allspice, sometimes called Jamaica pepper, is perhaps the island's most distinctive produce, and grows on a handsome tree in the uplands and hills. Seen at a distance, the bark appears as if it had been lately whitewashed; in gathering the fruit, the smaller branches are broken off, which, when carefully done, serves as a pruning; and generally the crop is large only in alternate years. Pasture lands, dotted with pimento trees, as in the fine central parish of St. Anne, present a beautiful park-like aspect. What sugar can compare with the best of Jamaica, in granulation, saccharine matter and flavour? Mocha cannot equal the best Port Royal coffee, which fetches the highest price in the English markets. The island also produces maize or Indian corn, which is proved by analysis to be more nutritive than any extra-tropical Indian corn; and it produces the date, cocoa-nut, sago-palm, cabbage-palm, palma Christi or castor oil, bitter wood, screfras, cinnamon, Barbadoes aloes, croton Eleuthera, tobacco, cassava, useful for cakes and starch, limes, lemons, citron and orange, Avocado pear, neesbury, Tahiti gooseberry, etc., etc. There is a parasitical plant in the uplands, yielding a milky fluid that forms a substance like India rubber. The prickly pear and several other sorts of cacti abound. The Rev. Dr. King, of Glasgow, in a great anti-slavery meeting in Spanish Town, in 1849, in which the Bishop of Jamaica presided, observed with equal truth and eloquence—"Your soil is confessed to be generally excellent. The weeds of your public roads are the ornamental plants of our green-houses and hot-houses. Your very wilds are orchards. The grandeur of your mountains is qualified only by the soft charms of their vegetation, and the bounty of nature has transformed your rocky cliffs into hanging gardens. Your isle has a central position in the ocean, as if to receive and dispense the riches of the earth."

Jamaica contains a great variety of wood, for the manufacture of beautiful furniture, and for the construction or completion of buildings, though probably as yet only partly known. Besides