

VEGETATION IN THE BEMUDAS.—PART. I. TREES

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Bermuda, locally called the "Land of the Lily and the Rose," presents an aspect of shelving cedar, sloping hills green with verdure, and shimmering under a southern sun, with a misty haze of violet hovering over all. For the horizon there is a sea of emerald hue, shading at times to turquoise blue, whilst purple patches show the coral shoals and reefs, with ever and anon the white sails of a fishing boat flashing in the sunlight. It may be styled a land of sleep, of rugged gorge, of sheltering valley. Vegetation is profuse, and its growth is maintained by the very heavy dew nightly occurring, and which is so saturating that at sunrise it may be seen dropping from the foliage like rain. As a consequence trees, shrubs and plants attain a luxuriance unknown in more northern climes. The most abundant and universal tree is the Juniper (*Juniperus Bermudiensis*), known in the islands only as the Cedar. Its abundance everywhere makes it almost wearisome to the eye in its sombre monotony. It varies in size according to soil and situation. The wood is very durable and fragrant. The earliest records of parties wrecked, as far back as 1593, speak of the cedar, palmetto, mulberries and wild olives, "infinite store, with divers other unknown by name and nature." But there is in fact no reliable data or report respecting the arboreal or floral vegetation of these islands between these early records and the beginning of the present century. Helmsley, whose report on the botany of Bermuda in connection with the "Challenger" expedition is the best work of reference, says the botanical history of the islands really began in 1806, when Micheaux visited them. Helmsley thinks the native plants may be put down at from 140 to 150, and that a parallel is offered on the other side of the Atlantic by the flora of the Azores. He places the endemic flora of Bermuda as eight species, and adds to this that "weeds and chance species brought out in seed packages naturalize with facility, and