

curious public, alive to the beauties and symmetry of nature's works. Whatever is yet known of their uses and history is also given; and, that the task might be more complete, we have rambled a little beyond, rather than fallen short of, the exact limits of the Republic. We have thus added, as our friends TORREY and GRAY have done, in their general Flora, a collection of the trees of Upper California, extending our ramble as far as the vicinity of Santa Barbara, in about the 34th degree of north latitude. We here met with several Oaks, Pines, a Plane Tree, a Horse-chestnut, and a Box Elder, which have not yet been found within the limits of the Territory or Oregon.

While the work was in progress, Professor TORREY informed me of the arrival of a large collection of dried plants from Key West, in East Florida, made by Doctor BLODGETT, of the United States army. All the trees in this herbarium—at least forty species—were in the most generous manner given up to me for publication by the professor. Most of them form distinguishing features in the tropical landscape of the West India Islands. Among them were the Mahogany, *Simaruba*, the Guaiacum or Lignum-Vitæ, the poisonous Manchineel, several trees of the family of the Myrtles, (*Eugenia*), three or four species of Fig Trees, the Calabash, and Papaw or Melon Tree, the Mangrove, two species of Cordia, the West India Birch, (*Bursera gummifera*), and many other arborescent plants which are now for the first time added to the Flora of the United States, and thus in a measure resolving the problem of the geographical limits of the Caribbean Flora. The island of Key West lies about eighty-five miles from East Florida, and is the same distance from Cuba. It is about nine miles long and three broad, containing a population of about four hundred people, chiefly engaged as wreckers.

Besides the trees we have noticed, I have been recently informed of the existence of thickets of *Cactuses* on the island, one of which, with an erect, cylindric, and divided stem, attains the height of thirty or more feet.

In the islands of the Everglades, considerably inland in East Florida, we have been informed that a Palm about ninety feet high, forming a magnificent tree, has been seen; but of this plant we have been unable to obtain, as yet, any further account.

The haste with which I have been obliged to proceed with the