

tained—these were impelled forwards by a small paddle. I fear the reader may think these accounts tedious, but on me the recollection of a day spent in this manner leaves a stronger impression than those passed in polished society, where all around is artificial.

CHAPTER XIV.

The Botanic Garden.

THIS beautiful establishment occupies one of the courts of the viceregal palace; and, though situated in the centre of a large and populous city, every vegetable production seems in perfect health and vigour. It affords to the stranger a most delightful retreat from the mid-day sun, and to the botanist, or admirer of the works of nature, a treat not to be met with elsewhere in New Spain, or perhaps in the world. It is handsomely laid out in the Spanish fashion, with flagged walks, bordered with elegant large pots of flowers. The walks are rendered cool by the creeping plants that are trained over them. They diverge from a

large stone basin in the centre, constantly supplied by a fountain with water, which, in small rivulets, spreads itself over every part of this little paradise—imparting freshness and life to thousands of elegant plants and flowers, unknown to the eye of an European, but which here, in a climate of eternal spring, in the open air, bloom and send forth their fragrance without the assistance of man, and produce a very different appearance to the dwarfish sickly exotics of our hot-house, which, with every possible care and attention, with difficulty linger a few years without re-producing their species.

Apples, pears, peaches, quinces, and other European fruits, flourish here, in company with bananas, avocatas, and the most delicious sapotas I ever tasted.

The celebrated hand-tree, which has excited so much attention among botanists,

is in great perfection here. I have brought models of its highly curious fruit, made from the living plants, as well as several species of the extraordinary cacti, mostly natives of Mexico, with which the garden abounds.

Numbers of pretty birds frequent this delightful spot, and from being perfectly undisturbed are very tame. On the 3d of April, I saw the first humming bird since I left Jamaica; in a month afterwards they were in great plenty, and the examination of them, in all their evolutions, added much to the pleasures of this establishment, which, I regret to say, was about to be discontinued, the pension of the professor being stopped: such were the exigencies of the state that even the trifling salary of the venerable little Italian curator was unpaid. I procured from the garden the seeds of such plants, fruits, &c. as were

ripe at the time I left the city, as well as of what appeared to me the most beautiful or curious in the different places through which I passed: they are now in British earth;—many of them coming up, and appearing to be in a healthy and vigorous state, under the care of Mr. Tate, at the Botanic Garden, in Sloane Street; and as most of them are natives of the higher and temperate regions, I hope in a short time to see them naturalized, and flowering in our gardens and plantations.

The following is the list of plants which I procured from the Botanical Garden, but the advanced season prevented my bringing them over. All those printed in Italics are new.

1 *Lobelia Surinamensis.*

2 *Turraea tinctoria.*

3 *Hedysarum virgatum.*

4 *Bignonia stans.*



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I. Clark sculp.

MEXICAN INDIANS going to MARKET.

- 5 *Bignonia linearis*. Cavanill.
- 6 *Dahlia gigantea*.
- 7 *Malva arborea*.
- 8 *Ipomœa involucriflora*. An genus novum?
- 9 *Salvia involucrata* Cavanill.
- 10 *Fuchsia arborea*.
- 11 *Datura scandens*.
- 12 *Nocca latifolia*.
- 13 *Psoralea glandulosa*.
- 14 *Datura arborea*.
- 15 *Hedyotis fruticosa*.
- 16 *Cactus Phyllanthus*.
- 17 *Cactus coccineus*.
- 18 *Solanum scandens*.
- 19 *Euphorbia pulcherrima*.
- 20 Varietas ejusdem flore lutea.
- 21 *Brassica crispa*.
- 22 *Ipomœa violacea*.
- 23 *Lexarcea*. Genus Novum.
- 24 *Hoitzia coccinea*. Cavanill.
- 25 *Crinum uniflorum*.
- 26 *Pancratium pulcherrimum*.
- 27 Variæ species Novæ Cactorum, inter quas valde singularis *Cactus senescens*.
- 28 *Crinum Zeylanicum*.
- 29 *Ferraria Pavonia*, *Tigridia* quorundam.
- 30 *Sicyos angulata*.
- 31 *Dahlia eoccinea*, variat floribus purpureis, coccineisque.

Professor Cervantes was kind enough to furnish me with this list.