

ficent tropical trees. The sides of the paths were adorned with the gay and handsome flowers of the *Poinciana pulcherrima*, and the more elevated lilac tree (*Melia azedarach*) profusely covered with its long panicles of fragrant flowers. As we rambled further into the scrubby parts beyond this cultivated spot, cotton shrubs, (*Gossypium herbaceum*), the thorny *Zizyphus* and *mimosas* were abundant. The *Jatropha curcas* was used for hedges, and a handsome *asclepias* (*procera*?) called *bombadero* by the Portuguese, was abundant about this waste land, both in fruit and flower: the flowers are succeeded by a large somewhat oval fruit, containing a quantity of pretty feathered seeds; the whole plant (like all the family to which this belongs) abounds in a viscid milky juice; the capsule of the pod is elegantly veined, reminding the anatomist of the veins displayed on the exterior of the heart.

On the following morning a small party was formed for an excursion to the valley of St. Trinidad, to gain some idea, if possible, of the fertile portions of this apparently very sterile island. This valley, it may be said, commences soon after descending the table land on which the town is situated. We diverged from the direct road, for the purpose of visiting a plantation about a mile and a half distant from

the town. The road was stony, and there was nothing in the aspect of the country around to relieve the eye; a few stunted *Mimosæ*, (occasionally varied by a few of the same species of large dimensions and great age,) some stunted *Zizyphi*, and a few trailing plants of *Convolvulus soldanella*, which, by its dark green leaves and purplish flowers, contrasted in a beautiful manner with the sterile brown soil of the scorched plains. The plantation we visited was not yet in order; it contained some flourishing coffee plants, with cocoa, plantain, cashew-nut, and other tropical trees; but the principal object of my visit was to view a specimen of the *Adansonia digitata*, or monkey bread tree, and its very peculiar appearance and growth imparted much gratification; it was about eighteen or twenty feet high, and twenty-one feet in circumference. This tree was in full foliage, and its bright green digitated leaves imparted much animation to it. The tree is surrounded to some depth by a spongy sap. As subsequently at the valley I saw a much larger specimen of this gigantic tree, but destitute of foliage, I shall then return to its description, and add a sketch. From this part of the island I collected but few plants; *Momordica senegalensis* grew wild about the fertile parts, as well as *Lotus jacobæus*, *Tribulus cistoides*, *Asclepias*, (pro-

cera?) and a very pretty *convolvulus*, with lilac flowers, climbed over rocks and trees in good soil.

From this place we proceeded to our destination. The sun was fervent, but the inconvenience was in some degree mitigated by a delightful north-east trade breeze. We passed over scorched plains, about which a few stunted bushes of *mimosa* were scattered, and at other places some wretched trees of *Jatropha curcas*. In a small vale we passed a rivulet of delicious water, at which several negresses were busily engaged in washing linen. The springs of water appear excellent, and there seems to be no deficiency of it in the valleys; but the want of rain is often severely felt: it was stated to me, that during the previous twenty months only half an inch has fallen on this island.

Continuing our journey, we passed several negroes conveying their produce, consisting of fruit, vegetables, orchilla weed, &c. to the town for sale, upon asses, with panniers made from bullocks' hides. The animals seemed in excellent condition, at which we were not a little surprised, from what we had seen of the sterility of the soil. A few cattle were also seen wandering over the plains, where barely a speck of verdure tinged the barren volcanic rocks, still