

Havannah: yet the latitude of Macao is 1° more southerly than that of the Havannah; and the latter town and Canton are, within nearly a minute, on the same parallel. The thermometer at Canton has sometimes almost reached the point zero; and by the effect of reflection, ice has been found on the terraces of houses. Although this great cold never lasts more than one day, the English merchants residing at Canton, like to make chimney-fires in their apartments from November to January; while at the Havannah, the artificial warmth even of a *brazero* is not required. Hail is frequent, and the hail-stones are extremely large in the Asiatic climate of Canton and Macao, while it is scarcely seen once in fifteen years at the Havannah. In these three places the thermometer sometimes keeps up for several hours between 0° and 4° (cent.); and yet, (a circumstance which appears to be very remarkable), snow has never been seen to fall; and notwithstanding the great lowering of the temperature, the bananas and the palm-trees are as beautiful around Canton, Macao, and the Havannah, as in the plains nearest the equator.

In the island of Cuba the lowering of the temperature lasts only during intervals of such short duration, that in general neither the banana, the sugar-cane, nor other productions of the torrid zone, suffer much. We know how well plants of vigorous organization resist temporary cold, and that the orange trees of Genoa survive the fall of snow, and endure cold which does not more than exceed 6° or 7° below freezing-point. As the vegetation of the island of Cuba bears the character of the vegetation of the regions near the equator, we are surprized to find even in the plains a vegetable form of the temperate climates, and mountains of the equatorial part of Mexico. I have often directed the attention of botanists to this extraordinary phenomenon in the geography of plants. The pine (*Pinus occidentalis*) is not found in the Lesser Antilles; not even in Jamaica (between $17\frac{3}{4}''$ and $18\frac{1}{2}'$ of latitude). It is only seen further north, in the mountains of San Domingo, and in all that part of the island of Cuba, situated between 20° and 23° lat. It attains a height of from sixty to seventy feet; and it is remarkable that the *cahoba** (mahogany), and the pine vegetate at the island

* *Swietenia Mahogani*, Linn.