

shrubs, stimulated by the inextinguishable vitality of Tropical Nature, you must penetrate into one of those winding canals which circulate among the islets of the thousand archipelagoes scattered over the bosom of the Amazons. Impending over the river the most various trees succeed each other—uplifting their crests—unfurling their fans—developing their leafy canopies—and balancing above the waves their garlands of snowy flowers.”

To the same writer we are indebted for the following description of this Giant of the Rivers :—

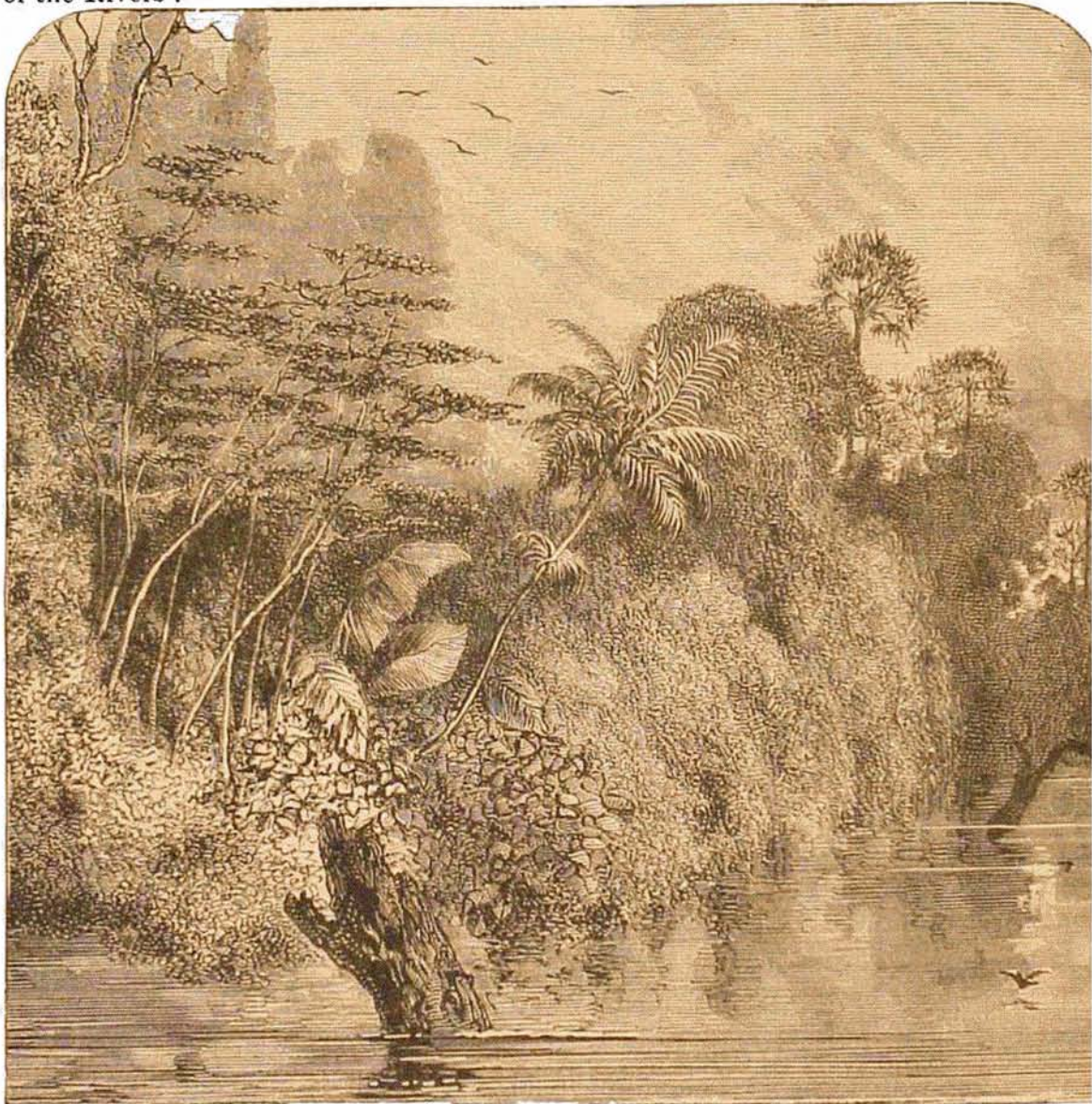


FIG. 153. — VIRGIN FOREST: BANKS OF THE LOWER AMAZONS.

“ Terrible by its current, which flows at the rate of four to six miles an hour, the Brazilian river is not less formidable from the intensity of its periodical floods. Regular in its movements as the Nile, it begins to increase towards the month of February, when the sun, in its apparent northward march, melts the snow-masses of the Peruvian Andes, and guides above the basin of the Amazons its attendant trains of heavy showers and snow. Under the combined action of the thaw and the rain-deluges, the flood rises gradually to an extraordinary elevation of forty feet ; the low islands disappear, the banks are inundated, the scanty lagoons