

“ Goa, in 1809, he lived, as many others did, in
 “ a cocoa-nut-leaf house; and that although the
 “ period was in the very height of the monsoon,
 “ and the house was on the sea-coast, it was
 “ comfortable and warm. He believes that not
 “ a nail was used in the whole building: the
 “ rafters and supporters, &c. were fastened on
 “ with string made of the fibrous envelope of
 “ the cocoa-nut shell; the wood was the tree
 “ itself; the roof, walls, doors, and windows
 “ were the leaf.” From the same authority we
 learn that the fibres, enveloping the shell of
 the nut, may be woven into a cable by which
 ships of seventy-four guns have safely rode out
 heavy gales of wind, when European cables have
 parted.

In the Wernerian Memoirs, vol. v. p. 107, &c.,
 is a very interesting account of the cocoa tree;
 in which the author states that this tree will grow
 on the sand of the sea-shore, where scarcely
 any thing else will vegetate: which corresponds
 with the account of an author above mentioned,
 who, speaking of its growth, says, “ *radicem ha-*
 “ *bet tenui spatio porrectam; et quæ quasi con-*
 “ *tra fidem terræ inhæretⁿ.*” And these state-
 ments are quite in accordance with the observa-
 tions of captain Flinders.

From other sources we learn that this tree

ⁿ *Johnstonus de Arboribus, p. 145.*