

bears fruit twice or thrice in the year<sup>o</sup>; that the half-ripe nut contains sometimes three or four pints of a clear aqueous fluid, fragrant, and pleasant to the taste; and that the nut itself, from its highly nutritious qualities, is used as an aliment in all inter-tropical countries<sup>p</sup>. In the volume of the Wernerian Memoirs above mentioned, it is said that in 1813 the number of cocoa trees cultivated in Ceylon, along a line of coast of about 184 miles, was ten millions; and that that number was increased in following years; that this tree is fruitful from its eighth to its sixty-fourth year, and sometimes bears from eighty to one hundred nuts annually; that elephants are fed on cocoa-nut leaves; and that the ashes of the tree contain so great a proportion of potash, that the native washermen of Ceylon use them instead of soap<sup>q</sup>.

In the *Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat.* tom. vii. p. 297, &c. it is stated, that, as in other palms, if the extremity of the sheath from whence the flowers of the cocoa arise be cut off while young, a white sweet liquor distils from it, which is used extensively as a beverage in India under the name of *palm wine*; that this liquor, if concentrated by boiling, deposits a sugar; that if exposed to the air it acquires vinous properties at the end of twelve hours, and at the end of twenty-four

<sup>o</sup> *Nouv. Dictionn. d'Hist. Nat.* tom. vii. p. 297, 298.    <sup>p</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>q</sup> *Wern. Mem.* vol. v. p. 110—127.