

tanica, the *Atropa frutescens*, and the arborescent *Sonchus*, vegetate there in the loose sands, and afford, as in Africa, food for camels. The western group of the Canaries presents a more elevated soil, is more woody, and is watered by a greater number of springs.

Though the whole archipelago contains several plants found also in Portugal,\* in Spain, at the Azores, and in the north-west of Africa, yet a great number of species, and even some genera, are peculiar to Teneriffe, to Porto Santo, and to Madeira. Such are the *Mocanera*, the *Plocama*, the *Bosea*, the *Canarina*, the *Drusa*, and the *Pittosporum*. A form which may be called northern, that of the cruciform plant,† is much rarer in the Canaries than in Spain and in Greece. Still farther to the south, in the equinoctial regions of both continents, where the mean temperature of the air rises above twenty-two degrees, the cruciform plants are scarcely ever to be seen.

A question highly interesting to the history of the progressive marks of organization on the globe has been very warmly discussed in our own times, that of ascertaining whether the polymorphous plants are more common in the volcanic islands. The vegetation of Teneriffe is unfavourable to the hypothesis that nature in new countries is but little subject to permanent forms. M. Broussonnet, who resided so long at the Canaries, asserts that the variable plants are not more common there than in the south of Europe. May

\* M. Willdenow and myself found, among the plants of the peak of Teneriffe, the beautiful *Satyrium diphyllum* (*Orchis cordata*, Willd.), which Mr. Link discovered in Portugal. The Canaries have, in common with the Flora of the Azores, not the *Dicksonia culcita*, the only arborescent heath found at the thirty-ninth degree of latitude, but the *Asplenium palmatum*, and the *Myrica Faya*. This last tree is met with in Portugal, in a wild state. Count Hoffmanssegg has seen very old trunks of it; but it was doubtful whether it was indigenous, or imported into that part of our continent. In reflecting on the migrations of plants, and on the geological possibility, that lands sunk in the ocean may have heretofore united Portugal, the Azores, the Canaries, and the chain of Atlas, we conceive, that the existence of the *Myrica Faya* in western Europe is a phenomenon at least as striking as that of the pine of Aleppo would be at the Azores.

† Among the small number of cruciform species contained in the Flora of Teneriffe, we shall here mention *Cheiranthus longifolius*, l'Hérit.; *Ch. frutescens*, Vent.; *Ch. scoparius*, Brouss.; *Erysimum bicorne*, Aiton; *Crambe strigosa*, and *C. lævigata*, Brouss.