

and possessing qualities that answer to the name ; but this is procured at the expense of the fruit and the good of the tree, and also of the best interests of the natives.

It is doubted whether the ocean is ever successful in planting the cocoanut on coral islands. The nut seems to be well fitted for marine transportation, through its thick husk, which serves both as a float and a protection ; but there is no known evidence that any island never inhabited has been found supplied with cocoanut-trees. The possibility of a successful planting by the waves cannot be denied ; but there are so many chances that the floating nut will be kept too long in the water, or be thrown where it cannot germinate, that the probability of a transplanting is exceedingly small. This palm—the *Cocos nucifera* of the botanists—is not included in the list of native coral island species on page 238.

Another tree, peculiarly fitted for the region, is the Pandanus or *Screw-pine*—well named as far as the syllable *screw* goes, but having nothing of a *pine* in its habit. Its long, sword-like leaves, of the shape and size of those of a large Iris, are set spirally on the few awkward branches toward the extremity of each, and make a tree strikingly tropical in character. It grows sometimes to a height of thirty feet. It is well fitted for the poor and shallow soil of a coral island ; for as it enlarges and spreads its branches, one prop after another grows out from the trunk and plants itself in the ground ; and by this means its base is widened, and the growing tree supported. The fruit, a large ovoidal mass made up of oblong dry seed, diverging from a centre, each near two cubic inches in size, affords a sweetish husky article of food, which, though little better than prepared corn-stalks, admits of being stored away for use when other things fail ; and at the Gilbert Islands, and others in that part of the ocean, is so employed.

The *Pisonia* is another of the forest trees, and is one of handsome foliage and large and beautiful flowers, sometimes attaining a height of forty feet, and the trunk twenty in girth.

Among the species that are earliest in taking root in the