

productions: but the seeds of various plants, as we have seen in the foregoing descriptions, are either brought by birds, or drifted by the wind and waves, to a soil calculated to support them.

Among the vegetable productions of coral islands, the cocoa-nut tree stands preeminent in value; containing in itself nearly all those important properties, which are found at large in that natural family of plants, the palms: and valuable indeed are those properties, if we may rely on the accounts which have been given of them by different authors; and of the truth of those accounts there is no sufficient reason to doubt. Johnston¹, speaking of the abundance of the cocoa-nut tree in India, where he says it occurs to a greater extent than the olive in Spain, or the willow in Holland, affirms that there is no part of the tree which is not applied to some useful purpose. Not only the cabins of the poorer natives, but large houses, are constructed entirely with materials afforded by this tree; the trunk, when split, supplying rafters, &c.; and the leaves, when plaited, making roofs and walls, which are impervious to wind and rain. The statement of Johnston is confirmed by captain Seely, in his account of El-lora^m, who says that “when he was stationed at

¹ Johnstonus de Arboribus, p. 146, &c.

^m London, 1824, 8vo. p. 284.