

hours becomes vinegar; that an oil may be obtained from the nut, which is not inferior to sweet almond oil, and which is used almost exclusively in India; and that the shell is formed into cups and various other small articles.

Almost all that has been said of the cocoa tree might be repeated of the date tree, making an allowance for the specific differences of the two: and with respect to the palms in general, Humboldt says it would not be easy to enumerate the various advantages derived from them. “They
 “afford wine, vinegar, oil, farinaceous food,
 “and sugar; timber also, and ropes, and mats,
 “and paper; and,” he adds, that “no trees are
 “so abundant in fruit, even without the aid of
 “cultivation; and that the Franciscan monks,
 “who live in the vicinity of palm plantations,
 “near the banks of the Orinoco, observe that
 “the native Indians give evidence of a fruitful
 “palm year, by the corresponding improvement
 “in their health and appearance^r.”

I shall conclude this part of the subject with a translation from the *Flora Atlantica* of Desfontaines, for the introduction of which no apology, I trust, is necessary. In describing the natural scenery of groves of palm, the author concludes with the following beautiful passage. “These
 “palm-groves, being impervious to the sun’s
 “rays, afford a hospitable shade, both to man and

^r Humboldt, *Distrib. Géogr. Plant.* p. 216—240.