

“ other animals, in a region which would other-  
 “ wise be intolerable from the heat. And under  
 “ this natural shelter, the orange, the lemon, the  
 “ pomegranate, the olive, the almond, and the  
 “ vine grow in wild luxuriance; producing, not-  
 “ withstanding they are so shaded, the most de-  
 “ licious fruit. And here, while the eyes are fed  
 “ with the endless variety of flowers which deck  
 “ these sylvan scenes, the ears are at the same  
 “ time ravished with the melodious notes of nu-  
 “ merous birds, which are attracted to these  
 “ groves by the shade, and the cool springs, and  
 “ the food which they there find <sup>s</sup>.”

### SECT. III.

#### *Vegetables as a Source of Food.*

IT appears from various statements of au-  
 thority, that the species of vegetables already  
 known amount to about sixty thousand <sup>t</sup>: though  
 there is reason to believe the actual number is  
 above a hundred thousand <sup>u</sup>: and, from the ge-  
 neral analogy of nature, we may fairly conclude

<sup>s</sup> “ *Palmeta radiis solis impervia, umbram in regione calidissima*  
 “ *hospitalem incolis, viatoribus, æque ac animantibus ministrant.*  
 “ *Eorum denso sub tegmine, absque ordine crescunt aurantia,*  
 “ *limones, punicæ, oleæ, amygdali, vites, quæ cursu geniculato*  
 “ *sæpe truncos palmarum scandunt. Hæ omnes fructus suavis-*  
 “ *simos, licet obumbratæ, ferunt; ibique mira florum et fructuum*  
 “ *varietate pascuntur oculi; simulque festivis avium cantilenis,*  
 “ *quas umbra, aqua, victus alliciunt, recreantur aures.*”

Desfontaines, *Flora Atlantica*, tom. ii. Append. p. 439.

<sup>t</sup> *Conversations on Vegetable Physiology*, vol. ii. p. 108.

<sup>u</sup> Decandolle, *Théorie Élém. de la Botanique*, 8vo. 1819, p. 25.