

whether we contemplate their variety, their magnitude, or their number. Thus the numerous and varied plants growing in tropical climates, are equally remarkable from their size, their luxuriant foliage, and the exuberance of their roots and seeds. Let us take, for instance, the palm tribe. It has been estimated that there are a thousand species of palms; and though the number actually known to exist is by no means so large, yet late discoveries seem to render the estimate not improbable. In many of the palm tribe the developement of the form, and the quantity of flowers and fruit is altogether extraordinary. Among others, the species which yields the well known *Cocoa nuts* grows to the height of eighty feet; each plant flourishes for a century; and, during the greater part of that time, continues to produce annually at least a hundred of these large nuts. Yet the cocoa nut species may be considered as one of the least productive of the palm tribe: for every bunch of another species, the *Seje* palm of the Oronoko, bears as many as 8000 fruit; while a single spatha of the *Date* palm contains 12,000 flowers; and in a third species, the *Alfonsia Amygdalina*, there is the enormous number of 207,000 flowers on each spatha; or 600,000 on a single individual plant!

In superlative exuberance, however, the Palm tribe must yield to the *Banana*, or Plantain,