

mental trees and plants of the Tropics. The great variety of palms, of cacti, dragon-trees, aloes, and others, blended with the orange, lemon, fig tree, and lime, produce a most pleasing effect; even the beauty of our own familiar flowers seems improved, and they grow to an enormous size.

Sugar-cane at one time was produced to a large extent; but the demand appears to have declined, and, in consequence, the cultivation of grain, oranges, lemons, and the vine has been substituted: the produce of these is an extensive and profitable source of revenue.

During our stay, exploring parties visited many places of interest some few miles inland, especially the Lake of the Seven Cities, on their way passing through gullies, chasms, and long deep ravines, that evidently have been formed by torrents rushing from the mountains to the sea, all of which are now, by the bounteous aid of Nature, covered with luxuriant foliage and charming shrubs.

The Azores abound with a great variety of mineral springs of the most valuable qualities and temperatures, which might be rendered a source of wealth to the inhabitants if the condition of the country and the accommodations of life were such as to induce visitors to resort thither to profit by their beneficial effects.

The public buildings are of but little interest. The streets are narrow, as in most southern climates, principally for the purpose of excluding the rays of