

Bermudas for some further indication of the presence of the species, but in vain.

On the 21st of April we left Bermudas, and crossed the Gulf-stream to Halifax, Nova Scotia. The observations made during that trip will be recorded in the next chapter. Toward the end of May we returned southward, and on the 31st we had the pleasure of finding ourselves once more lashed alongside the dock-yard at Bermudas.

The weather was now much warmer, the thermometer in the shade ranging from 21°·5 to 25° C., and with the advancing season the appearance of the islands had changed considerably. Even from a distance, many additional shades of green might be seen, brightening and softening the sombre uniformity of the cedar woods, and, conspicuous above all others, brilliant masses of the splendid foliage of the "pride of India" (*Melia azedarach*), which, during our former visit, showed its delicate trusses of lilac flowers only. I have already referred to the use of the common oleander (*Nerium oleander*) for arresting the progress of moving sand. The plant was introduced into Bermudas in modern times, and appears to have been encouraged, partly on account of its value for that purpose, and partly doubtless for its showy flowers. The climate and soil seem to suit it wonderfully, and it has regularly taken possession of the islands. Large bushes, twenty feet high, are everywhere—round the cottages, along the road-sides, and in the woods; and thick hedges of great height, planted partly as bounding fences and partly for shelter, intersect the cultivated ground in every direction. Nothing can be imagined more ornamental. There are all varieties of color, from white through pale rose and lilac to nearly crimson; the flowers tend to come double or semi-double, and they bloom most profusely. The country round Hamilton and Somerset Island was a perfect blaze of color in June; and as the flowers come in succession, and stand a