CHAP. I.]

in one's memory, and refer each picture to its proper place. This little valley, now ringing with English "chaff" and laughter, and littered with the inevitable sardine-tins and soda-water bottles, seemed a reflex of our confused cosmopolitan condition of mind. The tall, smooth tree-boles, with their scanty blue aromatic foliage, all around us - which made up the greater part of the vegetation—were the gum-tree (Eucalyptus robustus), from New Holland. The group of beautiful dark conifers on the other side of the stream, showing in every tone of color and in every curve of their long drooping branches their thorough luxuriance and "at-homeness," were no Atlantic or European cypresses, but Cryptomeria Japonica, the lawn tree which saddens us with its blighted brown twigs after a too hard frost in England. The tree above it with the dark-green phyllodes was Acacia melanoxylon, from Australia; the livelier intermixed greens were due to the Japanese Pittosporum undulatum, to Persea Indica, and Laurus Canariensis—both of somewhat doubtful origin, though reputed natives-and to the undoubtedly native Myrica faya.

The Açores have been particularly fortunate in having their climate made the most of by the introduction of suitable and valuable plants. When the islands were first discovered, they were clothed with natural forest, but during the earlier period of their occupation the wood was cut down with so little judgment that it was almost exterminated, and it became necessary to send planks for orange-boxes from Portugal. Of late years, however, several of the wealthiest and most influential proprietors, both in Fayal and San Miguel, have interested themselves greatly in forestry and acclimatization, and have scattered any of their new introductions which seemed to be of practical value about the islands with the utmost liberality. All the trees from Europe and the temperate parts of America, north and south, and those of Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and the cooler parts of China, seed freely in the Açores, so that there