

seems to be no limit to their multiplication. A quick-growing wood is, of course, the great desideratum, as it is chiefly wanted for the building of fires, and of the scarcely less ephemeral orange-cases. For this latter purpose, *Cryptomeria Japonica*, several species of *Eucalyptus*, *Populus nigra* and *angulata*, and *Acacia melanoxylon* are already supplanting *Pinus maritimus*, *Persea Indica*, and *Laurus Canariensis*.

A few miles farther on, the road left the coast, and began to ascend so rapidly that, until we gained the top of the ridge, we had little help from our carriages and *mulos*. The uplands, in general character and in the style of their vegetation, are not very unlike some of the richer parts of the Highlands of Scotland. The plants are somewhat on a larger scale. The heather is the *Erica Azorica*, frequently rising to the height of twelve to fifteen feet, with a regular woody stem much used for fire-wood. The bog-myrtle is replaced by the graceful *Myrica faya*, and the juniper is represented by a luxuriant spreading prostrate form, *Juniperus oxycedrus*. Grasses are numerous in species, and form a rich green permanent pasture. Ferns are very abundant, and give quite a character to the vegetation of the ravines among the "Montas." The steep cliff down to the bed of a torrent is sometimes one continuous sheet of the drooping fronds of *Woodwardia radicans*, often six or eight feet in length.

The *Woodwardia* is certainly the handsomest and most characteristic of these investing ferns. In the glades in San Miguel it is usually associated with the scarcely less handsome *Pteris arguta*, and with many varieties of *Aspidium dilatatum* and *æmulum*. Here and there we come upon a fine plant of *Dicksonia culcita*, the nearest approach on the island to a tree-fern. The buds and young fronds of this fern are thickly covered with a soft, silky down, which is greatly used in the islands for stuffing beds and pillows.

On reaching the crest of the hill, the view is certainly very