

caves. One of the largest of these is at the mouth of Paynter's Vale Cave. This hollow is sheltered from the sun by its steep walls, and is hence constantly shady and moist. It is a natural fernery, fifteen species of ferns being found within its small compass, two of them occurring nowhere else in the islands. Wild coffee trees thrive amongst the ferns in the hollow. The plants of Bermuda, which are of West Indian origin, were transported thither, probably, as Grisebach* states, by the Gulf Stream, or general drift of heated surface water in this direction. Others may have travelled with the cyclones which pass constantly from the West Indies in the direction of Bermuda, and sometimes reach the island. There are no winds blowing directly from the American coast which would be likely to carry seeds, the anticyclones taking a different direction. It is, however, probable that the occurrence of American plants in the islands is connected with the fact that the islands are visited from time to time by immense numbers of migratory birds from that continent, especially during their great southern migration.

Of these the American Golden Plover (*Charadrius marmoratus*) seems to visit Bermuda in the greatest numbers, but various other birds, frequenting marshes, Gallinules, Rails and Snipes, arrive in no small quantities every year. These birds have probably brought a good many plants to Bermuda, as seeds attached to their feet or feathers, or in their crops. The seed used for the onion crops in Bermuda is all imported yearly, mostly from Madeira, and the potato seed is brought from the United States. Various seeds cannot fail to reach the island with these imports, and the constant importation of hay must have led to the introduction of many more.

Shipwrecks furnish additions to the flora occasionally. A vessel laden with grapes was wrecked on the coast a short time ago. The boxes of grapes were washed ashore, and the grape seeds germinated in abundance, so that Sir J. H. Lefroy was able to gather a number of small plants for his garden.

The only export of the Bermudas is vegetables—potatoes, onions and tomatoes. These are said to be the best in the world, and they reach New York very early in the season, and command a very high price. The "Mudians" are, however, so lazy that they do not grow enough potatoes for home consumption, and at the time of our visit to the islands, at the same time that new potatoes were being exported to New York, large quantities of the former year's American crop were being imported in the returning steamers.

* A. Grisebach, "Die Vegetation der Erde." Leipzig, 1872. 2te Bd. II. s. 454.