

saved their carpenter's tools from the wreck, they built a bark, presumably of the cedar-wood, "of some eighteen tun," wherewith they left the islands, after a sojourn of five months. May also states that there were hogs in the south part; but they were so lean, "by reason the island is so barren," that they could not eat them. Fresh water could only be procured by digging. Unfortunately our author does not mention how they subsisted during the five months they (twenty-six in number) lived there, though chiefly, no doubt, on the "fish, fowl, and tortoise, of which there was good store."

Our next source of information is S. Jourdan,¹ who was on board the "Sea Venture," commanded by Sir George Sommers, which was wrecked on the coast of the Bermudas in 1609. At that date the hogs were so abundant that Sir George Sommers killed thirty-two on one hunting excursion. Hence it would appear that the islands must have been exceptionally bare of herbage when May was there. Respecting the vegetable productions of the country, Jourdan is more explicit than May, and we are able from his account to recognise several of the elements of the present flora. After descanting on the abundance and good quality of the animal food afforded by the islands, he proceeds: "The country yeeldeth divers fruits, as prickled peares [*Opuntia* spp.] in great abundance, which continue greene upon the trees all the yeare; also great plenty of mulberries [*Conocarpus erectus?*], white and red; and on the same are great store of silke-wormes [these turned out to be spiders], which yeelde tods of silke, both white and yellow, being some course and some fine. And there is a tree called a palmito tree [*Sabal blackburniana*] which hath a very sweete berry, upon which the hogs doe most feede; but our men finding the sweetnesse of them, did willingly share with the hogs for them, they being very pleasant and wholsome, which made them carelesse almost of any bread with their meate; which occasioned us to carry in a manner all that store of flower and meale we did or could save for Virginia. The head of the palmito tree is very good meate, either raw or sodden. It yeeldeth a head which weigheth about twenty pounds, and is farre better meate then any cabbidge. There are an infinite number of cedar trees [*Juniperus bermudiana*] (the fairest I thinke in the world), and those bring forth a very sweet berry and wholsom to eate. The country (for as much as I could find myself, or heare by others) affords no venimous creature or so much as a rat or a mouse, or anything unwholesome."

The foregoing extract establishes some interesting facts concerning the presence and preponderance at that date of four or five plants, namely, *Conocarpus*, *Opuntia*, *Juniperus*, and *Sabal*, which still constitute the more conspicuous features of the vegetation.

Jourdan also alludes to the protection afforded by trees to shipping in a harbour entered from the south-east side. Farther on he says that he had almost omitted through forgetfulness to mention that they found very good tobacco. We can only suppose that he mistook

¹ A Discovery of the Barmudas, otherwise called the Isle of Divels, by Sir Thomas Gates, Sir George Sommers, and Captayne Newport, with divers others. Set forth for the love of my Country and also for the good of the Plantation in Virginia. Sib Jourdan. London, 1610. Hakluyt's Coll., vol. v. p. 551.