

of steam with a slight sulphurous smell. A little further on there is a smaller spring in even more violent ebullition, tossing up a column five or six feet high; and beyond this a vent opening into a kind of cavern, not inaptly called 'Bocco do Inferno,' which sends out water, loaded with grey mud, with a loud rumbling noise. The mud comes splashing out for a time almost uniformly, and with little commotion, and then, as if it had been gathering force, a jet is driven out with a kind of explosion to a distance of several yards. This spring, like all the others, is surrounded by mounds of siliceous sinter, and of lime and alumina and sulphur efflorescence. The mud is deposited from the water on the surface of the rock around in a smooth paste, which has a high character as a cure for all skin complaints. At first I could not account for the grooves running in stripes all over the face of the rocks; but I afterwards found that they were the marks of fingers collecting the mud, and I was told that such marks were more numerous on Sunday, when the country people came into the village to mass, than on any other day.

"At a short distance from the 'Caldeiros' a spring gushes out from a crack in the rock of a cool chalybeate water, charged with carbonic acid, and with a slight dash of sulphuretted hydrogen. There is a hot spring close beside it. The flavour of the aerated water is rather peculiar at first, but in the hot steamy sulphurous air one soon comes to like its coolness and freshness, and it seems to taste all the better from the green cup, extemporised out of the beautiful leaf of the *Caladium*. The warm water from all the springs finds its way by various channels to join the river Quente, which escapes out of the 'Valley of the Caves,' at its northeastern end, and, brawling down through a pretty wooded gorge, joins the sea on the north coast about six miles from Villa Franca."



FIG. 74. — *Araucaria cookii*, in the garden of Don José do Canto, San Miguel. (From a Photograph.)

San Miguel is well cultivated. The orange groves (see fig. 77) are surrounded by high walls or close set hedges, to protect the trees from the strong winds which prevail all the winter. The fields of maize and corn are shielded from the wind by tall hedges of Reeds (*Arundo donax*), and the appearance of the cornfields is peculiar, because a kind of