

grass, *Pennisetum distachyum*, which grows fifteen to twenty feet high; an infinite variety of Begoniæ and Apocynaceæ growing in tufts on the water's edge, interspersed with terrestrial orchids such as *Habenaria spathacea*, *H. diffusa*, *H. lactiflora*, *Ponthieva oblongifolia*, and *Spiranthes saccata*.

Associated with these shrubby and herbaceous elements are many lofty trees belonging to the Leguminosæ, Sapotaceæ, Combretaceæ, Malpighiaceæ, Meliaceæ, &c., clothed with a variety of epiphytes of the genera *Pothos* and *Begonia* and numerous orchids, among them *Stanhopea tigrina*, *S. saccata*, *Maxillaria aromatica*, *Epidendrum ancipiticaulon*, *E. rigidum*, *E. candollei*, *Pleurothallis microphylla*, *Oncidium sphacelatum*, *O. stramineum*, *Cælia baueriana*, *Zygopetalum grandiflorum*, and *Ponera striata*.

This rich and varied vegetation constitutes a region quite different from that of the coast, and it may be designated the warm temperate region of the ravines.

The districts situated between 3250 and 4000 feet of absolute height present an intermixture of the plants of the hot humid regions and those of regions enjoying a much lower temperature. Thus even at elevations of about 3000 feet, oaks begin to appear, whereas the gigantic *Persea gratissima* of lower altitudes ceases to show itself, and the sapodilla, papaw, and large species of fig become rare, while ferns, Rubiaceæ, *Symplocos*, *Turpinia insignis*, *Berberis tenuifolia*, and Gesneraceæ abound.

2. *The Temperate Region*.—The great temperate region of the eastern side of the cordilleras of Mexico may be divided into three subregions, the whole of which constitutes a zone situated between 3000 and 5900 feet, or even up to 6500 feet of absolute height.

*First Subregion: Warm Temperate*.—This is situated on the confines of the tropical regions, and retains certain elements of the same vegetation, associated, however, with a large number of different species, many of which ascend to altitudes of 6500 feet. It is specially characterized by its oak-forests, composed of several species, various Gentianaceæ, *Zamia*, *Ruyschia*, and Orchideæ. Prominent among the last are numerous species of *Stanhopea*, *Brassavola glauca*, *Cyrtorchilum maculatum*, *Epidendrum radiatum*, *E. parkinsonianum*, and other species which grow on the bark of the oak trees. *Cypripedium irapeanum*, *Habenaria spathacea*, and *Corallorhiza mexicana* flourish in the shade of the oak-forests, while *Spiranthes aurantiaca*, *S. saccata*, *S. violacea*, and *Bletia coccinea* affect the savanas, half concealed among such grasses as *Manisurus granularis*, *Elionurus ciliaris*, *Andropogon anthistirioides*, *Panicum sylvaticum*, &c.

The neighbourhood of Jalapa (Coatepec, Jilotepec, Zacuapan, &c.) and Orizaba, and the greater part of the magnificent country stretching along the eastern side of the cordillera of Oaxaca and bearing the name of Chinantla, belong to this subregion, the extensive savanas of which are characterized by Malpighiaceæ, Mimoseæ, *Escobedia lævis*, &c. Here the soil is usually arid, though the rains are frequent, but here and there groups of taller trees relieve the monotony of the vast expanses.

*Second Subregion: Temperate, or Region of Tree-ferns*.—This is the region which in