

Mexico bears the name of "templada," and it is the most fertile of all, producing everything that is needful for the sustenance and pleasure of man. It extends over an average vertical range of 2000 to 2300 feet. In the States of Vera Cruz and Tamaulipas * it commences at elevations of 3250 to 3950 feet and terminates between 5900 and 6500 feet; in Oaxaca and Tabasco it begins and finishes some 600 feet higher. Tree-ferns, *Liquidambar*, and *Stanhopea* are highly characteristic. The mean temperature varies from about 63° to 66°, and the atmosphere is constantly humid; hence there is perpetual verdure, and the flora is the richest and most varied in the country. It embraces Jalapa and the surrounding forests, San Andres, Mirador, Chiconquiaco, Totutla, and all the belt of forests which extends from Orizaba to Villa Alta, Tonaquia, Teotalcingo, and up to the Guatemalan frontier †.

The orchids of this region include nearly all the species of *Stanhopea*, *Mormodes*, and *Catasetum*, *Trichopilia tortilis*, *T. galeottiana*, *Isochilus latibracteatus*, *I. crassiflorus*, *Evelyna capitata*, *Maxillaria deppei*, *M. densa*, *M. hæmatochilum*, *M. cucullata*, *Epidendrum lindenianum*, *E. glaucum*, *E. polybulbon*, *E. candollei*, *E. discolor*, *E. nocturnum*, *E. rhynchophorum*, *Oncidium ornithorhynchum*, *O. incurvum*, *Odontoglossum hastatum*, *O. maculatum*, *O. lindleyi*, *Physosiphon ochraceum*, *Dichæa squarrosa*, *D. echinocarpa*, *Prescottia* sp., *Cranichis glandulosa*, *Physurus brachyceras*, and a host of others. Prominent among the plants associated with them are various species of *Begonia*, *Daphnopsis*, *Citrosma*, *Symplocos*, *Bejaria*, and *Clethra*, together with *Duranta jalapensis*, *Choisya ternata*, and *Thibaudia laurifolia*.

Third Subregion: Temperate, or Region of Sarsaparilla and Jalap.—The abundance of these two medicinal plants suggests the name for the region, which follows the last, but has neither tree-ferns nor *Liquidambar*. Among the orchid-types which disappear *Trichopilia*, *Mormodes*, and *Catasetum* may be mentioned; and *Stanhopea* is rare; while such genera as *Pinus*, *Arbutus*, and *Pyrola*, and various Rosaceæ, characteristic of a colder climate, begin to show themselves. The limits of this subregion are somewhat indefinite, ranging between 5900 and 7200 feet. The commoner orchids are:—*Epidendrum viscidum*, *E. lactiflorum*, *E. ligulatum*, *E. ledifolium*, *E. lineatum*, *Barkeria lindleyana*, and *B. skinneri*, growing indiscriminately on oak trees and rocks.

The slopes of the western cordilleras of Mexico, descending to the Pacific Ocean, and the whole of the detached mountain masses and ramifications in the States of Mechoacan, Jalisco, Puebla, Mexico, and Oaxaca, present an enormous extension of temperate region in which the flora generally is different from that of the eastern or Atlantic side of the cordillera. *Liquidambar* is wanting, and tree-ferns comparatively rare; but the most striking feature is the large number of species of oak, which often attain colossal dimensions. The orchids which live on the oaks are mostly different

* We are unaware that Galeotti had any personal knowledge of this State, and the references to it here and elsewhere in this sketch are not in accordance with ascertained facts, except for the sea-board.

† Of course it is now very well known that this region should include similar districts of Guatemala.