

over, formed a perfectly circular arch. I also saw a bamboo growing as a creeper, with small short joints feathered with slender leafy branches at every joint, and stretching in festoons from tree to tree along the side of the road, or hanging suspended in single lines from a projecting branch, and swinging gently with the passing breeze. The appearance of the bamboo when growing is exceedingly graceful. Sometimes the canes, as thick as a man's arm at the base, rise forty or fifty feet high, fringed at the joints, which are two or three feet apart, with short branches of long, lance-shaped leaves. The smaller kinds, which abound most in this region, are still more elegant; and the waving of the canes, with their attenuated, but feathery-looking points, bending down like a plume, and the tremulous quivering, even in the slightest breeze, of their long, slender leaves, present ever-varying aspects of beauty; and, combined with the bright green colour of the bamboo cane and leaf, impart an indescribable charm to the entire landscape.

I had seen in South Africa patches of bamboo, which were said to yield considerable profit to their owners, by furnishing handles for the whips with which the African waggon-driver keeps his long team of oxen in order. But handles for the whips of all the waggon-drivers upon earth, and rods for all the anglers in the world, might be taken from the regions through which we were passing without being missed. The fences in this part of the country are formed with the bamboo, and the walls, and even the floors, of the generality of houses are of the same material. The roofs of these houses are covered with grass.

Our road was now steep, rugged, slippery, and more difficult than any we had before passed over, and it was noon before we reached Marozivongy, a small village situated in a hollow, where we halted for breakfast. The people were hospitable. The mistress of the house at which we stopped