

THE WORLD-FAMOUS
ESTATE AND BOTANICAL GARDENS
and PALACE of
MONSERRATE, CINTRA, PORTUGAL

About twenty miles from Lisbon

For Sale by Private Treaty
together with the whole of the
VALUABLE CONTENTS AND OBJETS D'ART

THE outstanding feature of the Property is the Gardens, comprising, as they do, a wonderful and unique collection of tropical plants, conifers and trees. They are, perhaps, the best-known of the Gardens of Europe, and may also be said to be the Mecca of the Botanical and Horticultural world, attracting not only the general lover of plants but also the scientific observer and student.

The Serra included in the Sale is a fine belt of Pine and Cork Woods, and the picturesque Monte Bedel, the summit of which is about 1,200 feet above sea level.

The whole extending to an area of

353 Acres

THE CORK CONVENT, a well-known beauty spot in the Serra, with its ruins of the Monastery of the Capuchins, can also be acquired.

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HISTORICAL NOTES

GARDENS AND PALACE OF MONSERRATE: "CINTRA'S GLORIOUS EDEN"

IN the whole of Portugal there is nothing more romantic, more beautiful or more historic than what Byron, without hyperbole, called "Cintra's glorious Eden." King and statesman, soldier and poet have loved the lower slopes of this group of serrated, conical mountains abruptly rising from a rolling plain some 20 miles from Lisbon, yet richly clothed with verdure, with orange trees and aloes, arbutus and geraniums, and an endless variety of flowering shrubs and wild flowers. Here, in very truth, are the "thousand sparkling rills" of Mrs. Alexander's poem, falling in natural cascades with the soft plash which adds to the languorous softness of the lovely scene. Small wonder that the Kings and nobles of old Portugal should have sought peace and content in their villas and palaces looking towards the now historic lines of Torres Vedras and the sea. There villas were built, gardens made, and little estates carved out and entailed upon the posterity of the noble houses which attained the height of their felicity when they gained a footing upon these slopes. Here came Don Juan de Castro and Pombal, Columbus and Beckford, Borrow and Byron, who, amid the beauties of Monserrate, found the inspiration for "Childe Harold." No one who has read of Cintra's "variegated maze of mount and glen" but must have longed to reach "Elysium's gates." Yet it was amid these lovely scenes that—

"Deep in yon cave Honorius long did dwell,
In hope to merit Heaven by making earth a Hell."

In 1856 the late Sir Francis Cook, who some years previously had married an English wife from Lisbon, was struck with the loveliness in decay of the old Palace of Monserrate, the most beautiful and best known of the properties of Cintra which had been for a time preserved and beautified by Beckford—

"There thou too, Vathek! England's wealthiest son,
Once formed thy Paradise,
Here did'st thou dwell, here schemes of pleasure plan
Beneath yon mountain's ever-beauteous brow."

But Beckford failed to obtain the freehold and desisted, and when Byron for a short while inhabited Cintra the "fairy dwelling" was "low." More fortunate than Beckford, Sir Francis bought the place,

rebuilt the house in white and coloured marbles, roofed it with domes, and filled it with so wonderful a collection of art treasures that the late Sir J. C. Robinson, long Surveyor of the Royal Pictures, declared that "there are few more notable show places in Europe." Bit by bit Sir Francis Cook bought up villas and a convent, rebuilt or restored them, planted their neglected gardens with exotic trees and created a paradise indeed. In the end forest and mountain, including the famous "Cork Convent," passed into his hands, together with the Villa of Penha Verde, the home of Don Juan de Castro, whose heart lies in its Chapel. Never before perhaps has any one man brought together the inheritances of so many great families, and not only restored them to their original beauty, but vastly enhanced it and combined them into the most celebrated landscape garden in Europe. Sir Francis planted many a foreign tree, such as the eucalyptus, which now flourishes all over Portugal. The saving of Cintra was a romantic adventure that stands alone, and so a King of Portugal recognised when in 1870 he made Mr. Cook (he did not become a Baronet until long afterwards) Visconde de Monserrate.



A TYPICAL VIEW NEAR MONSERRATE

MONSERRATE

Is situated about 20 miles from Lisbon, two-and-a-half miles from Cintra and four miles from Cape Roca—the most westerly point of Europe. **Cintra** is connected with Lisbon by railway and the sea can be reached by a service of trams which pass below the property through the village of Galamares.

THE MAIN ESTATE

occupies a beautiful position some 500 ft. above sea level, in the folds of the Serra of Cintra with exceptional views and charming vistas over the surrounding country to the Atlantic Ocean beyond on the west and the historical lines of Torres Vedras to the North.

The Estate (or Quinta) of Monserrate has belonged to the Cook family since 1856, having been acquired by the late Sir Francis Cook, Bart., and subsequently converted by him into the famous botanical garden of to-day.

The Palace was rebuilt in 1858-60 in Moorish style, under the supervision of Mr. James T. Knowles, F.R.I.B.A.

It is of solid stone construction with lead roof. The walls are partly covered by numerous flowering creepers and ivy and are richly embellished with inlet Moorish tiles at intervals.

The Residence is approached by three carriage drives and lies practically in the centre of its wonderful gardens. The principal drive is guarded by the visitors' lodge and winds through the grounds for about a quarter of a mile, terminating at the steps to the main entrance, by which is the picturesque stone fountain and lower entrance terrace with Italian well head and circular stone tables. Surrounding the Palace is the broad terrace with fine stone balustrade.

The Accommodation is divided into three towers, the first of which includes

The Main Entrance Porch (south-east) supported by massive stone pillars with access by a few stone steps to the

OCTAGONAL ENTRANCE HALL

23 ft. in diameter with stone and marble floor, plasterwork ceilings and walls, enriched mouldings in floral and ivy leaf design, the Gothic arches being supported by eight marble pillars. On one side of the

Hall but entirely hidden is the fitted hand basin (h. and c.) and telephone, adjoining which is the large Cloakroom with inlet safe. On the north-east side of the Entrance Hall rises the staircase to the bedrooms above.

The Main Corridor connecting the three towers is 108 ft. in length and 11 ft. 6 in. in breadth (excluding the central hall). It has plasterwork walls in the prevailing style and is decorated by a succession of arches supported by pink marble pillars connected above by elaborate trellis work mouldings and domed ceiling lights. At given intervals are the walled recesses with statues and mouldings.

From this corridor is entered

The Dining Room (North-east), measuring 31 ft. by 18 ft. 6 in. with inlaid parquet floor and fine marble mantelpiece. Service door to pantry with tiled walls and fitted sink and shelves—W.C. adjoining.

The Well-fitted Library (South-west) measures 31 ft. by 18 ft., and is entered by an elaborately carved door of Spanish walnut in heavy relief. The walls are entirely covered by a fine range of walnut bookshelves and the room has a white marble fireplace, opposite to which is the separate door to the cloakroom.

THE ELEGANT CENTRAL HALL

is octagonal in shape and has as a centrepiece a delightful Italian fountain in white Carrara marble, standing in a basin in marble 25 ft. in circumference. The Hall is 20 ft. in diameter and has fine plasterwork walls and arches with pillared supports in grey marble.

On the South-west side is

The Staircase Hall, about 20 ft. by 18 ft., with marble pillars between which are four finely carved white Delhi alabaster screens in trellis-work design.

This Hall gives access to the fine **Colonnade**, supported by massive stone pillars.

Opposite the Staircase Hall is

The Chapel Room, measuring 18 ft. by 14 ft.

THE BEAUTIFUL WHITE MARBLE STAIRCASE

with balustrade of ivy leaf design rises in easy gradient to the first floor gallery surrounding the Central Hall.

On the north-east side of the Central Hall is another garden entrance and two Bachelors' Bedrooms, each measuring 19 ft. by 14 ft.

The continuance of the main corridor gives access to

The Drawing Room (south-west), measuring 33 ft. by 18 ft. This is a fine apartment with carved white mantelpiece open grate. The walls and ceilings have plasterwork decorations in gilt relief.

The Billiard Room (north-east) measures 33 ft. by 18 ft., and is decorated in a similar manner to the last-named apartment.

At the termination of the main corridor is the

MAGNIFICENT CIRCULAR MUSIC ROOM

which entirely occupies the third tower. This apartment measures 32 ft. in diameter, has windows and small balconies on the North, East and West sides, plasterwork walls and recesses. The marble pillars and arches support the elaborately designed, dome-shaped ceiling with plaster work embellishments and mouldings in floral design, with trellis-work and gilt relief. On the north-east and south-west sides of the room are small ante-rooms.

The semi-circular Staircase from the Entrance Hall gives access to a landing from which is entered a

Principal Bedroom, about 26 ft. by 14 ft., facing south-east, with fitted hand basin (h. and c.).

Another Bedroom (south), measuring about 13 ft. 6 in. by 13 ft., having fitted hand basin (h. and c.), door to small corridor and

Tiled Bathroom, with fitted bath and hand basin ; W.C. adjoining.

On the next floor of this tower are

Three Servants' Bedrooms and Bathroom.

The remaining Principal and Guests' Bedrooms in the Central Tower are entered from the **Gallery** surrounding the Central Hall. This octagonal gallery has a fine balustrade of white Delhi alabaster of trellis-work design and grey marble handrail and is lighted by the domed ceiling.

Bedroom (north-east) measuring 19 ft. by 17 ft. with door to **Dressing Room** (north) 10 ft. by 10 ft.

Bedroom (east) measuring 19 ft. by 17 ft. with separate access to

Dressing Room, 14 ft. by 7 ft. 6 in.

Another Bedroom, facing south-west and measuring 19 ft. by 17 ft. communicating with

Dressing Room (south-west) measuring 14 ft. by 7 ft. 6 in.

Well-fitted Bathroom, with tiled floors and walls, bath, hand basin and W.C.—also a room for Shower Bath.

A short flight of stairs gives access to

Four Bedrooms, each measuring about 18 ft. by 17 ft., also

Dressing Room, 9 ft. by 7 ft. 6 in., and

Well-fitted Bathroom, hand basin (h. and c.), separate W.C.

THE AMPLE DOMESTIC OFFICES

are situated on the garden level and are approached by a flight of stairs adjoining the Entrance Hall. They include large light **Kitchen** with tiled walls and ceiling, fitted sinks and range, tiled **Servants' Hall** or secondary **Kitchen**, **Boot Hole**, **Wine Cellar** and **Pantry Boy's Room**, outside **Larder**, **W.C.**

The **Palace**, **Stabling** and certain **Cottages** are fitted throughout with **Electric Light** from its own plant.

The supply of excellent water to the **Palace** is brought direct from the springs in the **Serra** by galvanized iron piping to the house reservoir, and this also communicates with hydrants all round the **Palace** in case of fire.

There is an entirely separate supply to the **Gardens** with connections at all necessary points for watering purposes. Both these supplies are abundant.

The heating is by hot air vents.

The drainage is on modern principles with a good fall.

At a convenient distance to the Palace is the

STABLING AND GARAGE ACCOMMODATION

comprising an artistic stone erection covered with flowering creepers (bougainvillea and plumbago). There are Stalls for seven horses and Coach-house or Garage for two cars.

Above this building is the Coachman's Quarters comprising four rooms, Kitchen and W.C., also Gardener's Cottage of four rooms and Kitchen and W.C., Coal and Coke Store, etc. Large Hayloft.

The Menservant's Quarters comprise Kitchen and two rooms over, and approached by a separate flight of stairs are four other rooms, all in first-rate order.

Close to the Stabling is another artistic stone building with massive boulder front. This affords accommodation for four cows and three yokes of oxen. There is a well-fitted Estate Office adjoining with hand basin, W.C., etc. Above is the large Carpenter's Shop and Paint Shop.

In the yard is the newly erected Stonemason's Shop.

OTHER OUTBUILDINGS

comprise Power House with recently installed 22 h.p. Ruston-Hornsby Engine, Accumulator Room with 54 cells; well fitted Saw Mills with the necessary machinery thereto, Timber Store and Workshop.

Large Potting Shed with stone benches.

Two Greenhouses and a small range of Frames.

The well-maintained stone-built Cottages comprise :—

The artistic **Upper Lodge** for head gardener containing two Sitting Rooms and Hall, Kitchen, three Bedrooms, Bathroom (h. and c.) and W.C.

The Gatekeeper's Cottage, containing Living Room, Kitchen and three Bedrooms, opposite to which is the small

Visitors' Lodge of two rooms at the gates of the Main Entrance.

The **Lower Lodge** contains four rooms, Kitchen and W.C.

The **Head Guard's Cottage** has Sitting Room and Kitchen, four Bedrooms.

The **North Lodge** in Cascade Valley has three Bedrooms, Sitting Room, Kitchen and W.C.

THE EXTENSIVE BOTANICAL GARDENS

are world famous for their beauty and they contain a unique collection of plants, trees and conifers from many parts of the world.

Amongst the many features of interest can be mentioned :

The Picturesque Ravine, with cascades to the High Waterfall above the ornamental lakes. In this part of the Gardens is the large collection of stately Fern Trees and many other ferns.

The Extensive Lawns, studded with magnificent specimen trees slope on the south-west side to the **Two Ornamental Lakes**.

These Lawns form an excellent setting to the fine collection of coniferous trees, which are renowned for their great height and beauty.

Opposite to the Lawns are the ruins of the **Ancient Chapel**, almost hidden under the foliage of rare plants of unusual growth. Within the walls stands an Etruscan sarcophagus probably 3,000 years old.

In front of the Chapel is a small terrace covered by a pergola from which a good view can be obtained of the part of the lawn which is flanked by large groups of rare plants and flowering shrubs.

To the right of the Chapel is the **Glen**, sheltered by a fine old *Cupressus lusitanica*.

The Dell Gardens, through which flows a stream, lead into the Valley, in which are the notable specimens of Mexican Pines—close by is the

RHODODENDRON GARDEN AND TROPICAL GARDEN

with many varieties of Palms, Cycads and Cacti.

A wistaria-covered red-brick pergola flanks the main drive leading up to the Palace, and this pergola overlooks the large picturesque reservoir with fountain and lilies.

The Old Indian Gateway of carved red sandstone is close by, leading through an old archway below the road to the Fern Garden.

A very handsome flight of Marble Steps connects one side of the drive to the long shady walk known as "The Tank Walk," which is shaded and bordered by some fine magnolias, fuchsias and datura arborea.

The rare plants and trees on this section of the garden are considered to be the most superb specimens of their kind.

A few minutes' walk from the Palace is the

EXCELLENT HARD TENNIS COURT

occupying a sheltered position.

The Cascade Valley is a beautifully shady and wooded walk from the Gardens towards Pombal and Cintra.

The whole of the Gardens are intersected by a series of shady paths and walks, and from many places most beautiful vistas of the Grounds and surrounding country are obtainable.

Opposite to the main entrance is the stretch of Serra, the lower parts of which form a protective belt of pine and cork woods, whilst the upper part, including Monte Bedel (standing about 1,200 ft. up) is formed of huge "tors" of granite boulders. This portion of the Estate affords a quiet retreat and is intersected by numerous shady paths.

Close to the main entrance is the large

SWIMMING POOL

with diving platforms and stone steps. Above this is the upper lake or reservoir.

The total area of the Estate extends to about

353 Acres

MONSERRATE

THE gardens of Monserrate are very beautiful, extensive and interesting. They are situated in the folds of the Serra of Cintra, on a very steep slope facing, generally, north-west, and are thus sheltered somewhat from the fierce heat of midday, and able to retain a large amount of humidity which is particularly suitable to the requirements of the big collection of Tree Ferns and many other plants that thrive luxuriantly in hot, moist conditions. In a deep ravine, the water dashes downwards in cascades from a high waterfall at the top to the ornamental lakes which lie far below at the foot of a large lawn that is crowned by the large and very decorative Palacio.

The sides of the ravine are steep, with here and there a large rock standing out boldly and covered with Ferns. The great, glossy fronds of *Woodwardia radicans* hang over the rocky edge, and are gently swayed by dashing, silvery spray from the rushing water beneath. Overhead tower the stately Tree Ferns—*Cyathea*, *Alsophila*, *Dicksonia* and others. Large groups of *Pteris*, *Davallia*, *Asplenium*, *Blechnum*, and many other Ferns fill the spaces between the towering trunks, completely covering the rich vegetable soil in which they revel; all are sheltered and shaded by large Cork Oaks and the beautiful *Arbutus Unedo*. Here, too, many species and varieties of *Begonia* thrive. Giant plants of *B. arborescens*, with long, pointed metallic-hued leaves, and thick, ribbed stems, bear large trusses of delicate white flowers in the early spring; while, on the rock-work beneath, *B. manicata* forms large, soft cushions of dark green leaves surmounted by dainty pink flower heads. *B. Rex*, in many fine varieties, grows well in any available nook, while tuberous *Begonias* flaunt themselves in a few borders.

Higher up, on the sunnier side of the ravine, huge *Camellias* thrive and flower in great profusion; and here and there among the Ferns rise large plants of *Fuchsia corymbiflora*, and *F. arborescens*, with bright pink panicles of flowers, which visitors often mistake for English Lilac. Here, too, are some grand examples of *Luculia gratissima*, whose large trusses of soft pink flowers fill the whole ravine with their delicate perfume in late autumn. In the crevices of the rocks is found the rare Ivy-leaved Fern (*Asplenium Hemionitis*) which grows quite freely among mosses and *Lycopodium*.

Along the sides of a path which crosses the ravine, whence a fine view of it can be obtained, are irregular rock borders in which, beside many Ferns, *Primulas* of various species and varieties, *Cyclamens*, *Cypripediums* and other old favourites, make a good show, shaded by enormous Plane trees (*Platanus orientalis*), of which one is a great curiosity, having a Cork Oak growing from the same root; the explanation is that the Oak was used originally as a stake to support the young Plane tree, and they grew together, the Plane gradually enfolding the Oak within its roots.

A little way along the path are the ruins of an old Chapel, within which are beds of rare Palms, Ferns and *Begonias*, with climbing *Roses* and *Wistaria* clambering over the bare old rafters of the open roof. The front of the Chapel is covered with Ivy and *Ficus repens*—and shaded on one side by a superb *Catalpa speciosa*, and on the other by a huge *Ficus rubiginosa*. A small pergola supports *Tacsonia mollissima* and *Passiflora actinea*, while two small pillars nearby are covered with *Kennedya* (*Hardenbergia*) *Comptoniana*, *Honeysuckles* and *Thunbergia alata*.

To the right of the Chapel terrace is a dark glen, sheltered on one side by a very big, old *Cupressus lusitanica*, with particularly fine drooping foliage, and, farther back, by large groups of *Bambusa gigantea*, and groups of *Camellias*. In the foreground are two fine specimens of *Cyathea medullaris*, large *Alsophila Moorei*, *Dicksonia antarctica* and *D. squarrosa*, and a good plant of *Cyathea dealbata*, associated with *Luculia* and *Fuchsia corymbiflora*.

Just below this terrace are fine groups of *Exochorda grandiflora* and *Staphylea colchica*; *Feijoa Sellowiana*, which bears delicious fruits every year; *Trithrinax brasiliensis*, *Raphiolepis japonica*, a low, thick bush about 10 ft. through, which is almost covered with thick white flowers in spring; and *Tibouchina semidecandra* (*Lasiandra*), with bright purple flowers. Close by a *Cryptomeria japonica* towers 70 ft. high, but is clothed with branches to the ground; near it stands an equally fine *Abies nobilis* var. *glauca*.

On the far bank of a small stream stands what must surely be the finest specimen of *Sciadopitys verticillata* in Europe; it is about 50 ft. high, with horizontal branches reaching down to the ground, and perfectly symmetrical at the top. The lowest branches are about 15 ft. long, and the girth of the trunk, at man's height, is about 4 ft. The needles are in perfect whorls and measure about 6 in. long.

Perhaps the greatest glory of Monserrate is its collection of Coniferous trees—fine in regard to their great size rather than the extent of varieties. The most noticeable are certainly the *Araucarias*. There are two examples of *Araucaria Bidwillii*, one of which is 80 ft. high, 30 ft. in girth at the base, and a perfect specimen. It bears cones about the size of a half-bushel basket every year, and a large percentage of the seeds are fertile, but take nearly two years to germinate. Standing on the big lawn is a giant *A. excelsa*, about 90 ft. high, with its lower branches covering the ground about 30 ft. around the trunk. It also bears fertile seeds every year. There is a small *A. Cunninghamii*, still a young plant, and a very fine *A. Cookii* in another garden belonging to Monserrate. There are three fine Kauri Pines (*Agathis australis*), only one of which bears cones, which do not, however, contain fertile seeds. *Cryptomerias* are well

represented by several noble trees. *C. japonica* var. *torii* stands in a good position at the top of the lawn and is very conspicuous. There is also a grand *C. j.* var. *elegans* in the Rose garden. On the lawn, too, are fine examples of *Cedrus Deodara* and *C. atlantica* var. *glauca*, whose cones give numbers of fertile seeds. *Abies Nordmanniana* and *A. Webbiana* are also on the lawn, and are very beautiful trees. In a deep dell, through which flows a small stream, *Pinus Montezumae* is a striking object, with its dense heads of long, soft, pendulous needles; while *P. Ayacahuite*, with its large, loose cones, and *P. patula* make a fine group. A group of *Pinus insignis*, on a slight rise of ground, is a magnificent sight; the trees are each about 150 ft. high, and the largest has a girth of 40 ft. *Pinus canariensis* is of a finer texture, and stands near a giant *Eucalyptus viminalis*. *Sequoia gigantea* does not seem to like the salt breezes from the near Atlantic and is only represented by a small plant; but the Redwood, *S. sempervirens*, does well, as does its neighbour, *Thuja gigantea* (picata).

Pinus maritima grows wild on the serra, and is commonly used for rough timber. Turpentine is also obtained from it. *Pinus Pinea* is also plentiful and forms fine belts of timber trees in suitable situations. *Taxodium distichum* is beautiful in the autumn with its golden-bronze foliage, and also in the spring, with the tender green of its young leaves. There is also a good specimen of *T. d.* var. *mucronatum*, overlooking a small ornamental lake. *Cupressus* of various species and varieties are abundant, the most common being *C. macrocarpa*, in many varieties; and there are large specimens of *C. lusitanica*, especially in an avenue near the entrance gate. Near there, too, is a large *Pinus longifolia*, which is almost deciduous in habit, the needles drying up in the autumn, but falling only when the new growth appears in spring. It is a very striking tree, with light-coloured bark, and long, pendulous needles.

On the same lawn as this is a pergola of Cork Oak branches, covered with *Wistaria multijuga*, both the blue and white varieties, many of the racemes of flowers being nearly a yard long. Some fine examples of *Cedrus libanotica* border the lawn close by, and in a corner near the carriage drive is a patriarchal Cork Oak, whose long, thick branches are almost covered by the dainty Hare's-foot Fern (*Davallia canariensis*).

By the side of a large lawn a goodly collection of *Magnolias* include *M. macrophylla*, 50 ft. high; *M. Campbelli*; *M. conspicua*, *M. Soul-angiana*, *M. discolor* and several hybrids and varieties. *Magnolia grandiflora* forms a short avenue of magnificent trees 70 ft. high, and fully foliated to the ground. This avenue affords a superb vista from a *Wistaria*-covered pergola above a large, old water-tank, on to the lakes far below, and, beyond, up again to the rugged skyline of the distant, rocky serra. There is also the quaint little *Magnolia* (*Michelia*) *fuscata*, with tiny, brownish-purple blossoms, and a perfume like ripe Apples.

Australian plants are represented by large specimens of *Grevillea robusta*, trees of 70 ft. or more high; *Metrosideros tomentosa*, in huge masses of silver-grey foliage, 50 ft. high and as much through, covered in May with masses of deep red flowers, like bundles of silk threads, and

with tangles of adventitious roots almost from the topmost branches; and *M. robusta*, with small Myrtle-like leaves, represented by very large bushes, which when in flower in the spring are very beautiful.

There are, too, some very large *Eucalyptus*—one is stated to be the first of its kind planted in Portugal—and two particularly fine specimens of *E. Globulus* with boles of 50 ft. in girth near the ground, and rising 60 ft. to the lowest branches, with straight and perfect trunks. Their full height is 135 ft.

Banksia integrifolia, *Eugenia australis*, *E. Jambos*, *Theophrasta imperialis*, a very fine plant; *Stenocarpus Cunninghamii*, with curious red and yellow flowers borne in winter; *Inga* (*Calliandra*) *pulcherrima*, and many other beautiful and interesting trees are to be seen, while the *Mimosa* thrives everywhere, where it can be left alone! *Gardenias* grow freely out of doors and flower in the summer. *Bignonia grandiflora* grows luxuriantly on a terrace wall by the Palacio; while *Bignonia bucinatoria* almost covers a giant Goa Cedar, making a beautiful display with its large, bright red flowers that hang in festoons from the branches. *Bignonia biflora*, with large, lavender-coloured flowers, and *Tecoma jasminoides*, straggling over some old Oaks, also produce a bright effect in the hot days of August and September. *Thunbergia grandiflora* grows well on a terrace wall, and flowers profusely, its large, light blue, flat flowers showing up well against the dark foliage.

The lawns are one of the glories of Monserrate, as they are the only permanent lawns in the country, and have existed since they were sown sixty or more years ago. They cover about twenty acres and make a fine setting for some of the trees already noted, in addition to large groups of *Leptospermums* and other Australian plants, and blue, pink and white *Hydrangeas*.

The lakes are very charming, as in and around them are collections of various plants. The *Papyrus* grows freely, as does the smaller *Cyperus alternifolius*. *Nymphaeas* cover the water except for a few lanes kept clear by the swans, while clumps of *Nelumbiums* stand up boldly and the *Aponogeton* pushes its dark green leaves and pure white flowers out from the shady sides. Around the edges are groups of *Hedychium coronarium*, *Escallonias*, *Gunneras*, *Richardia africana*, *Iris laevigata*, etc. *Hedychium Gardnerianum* grows practically wild, flowering freely everywhere along the water courses and near the waterfalls.

Yuccas, *Agaves* and *Furcraeas* are represented by many good specimens on the lawns and mixed with other plants. *Agave Salmiana* and *A. Frausosini* are particularly fine. *Doryanthes Palmeri* grows well in large groups; and *D. excelsa* makes a very striking plant when it is in flower, "like a bowl of flowers," as described by a visitor who wanted to know its name. Cycads are represented by fine plants of *Dioon edule*, *Encephalartos Lehmannii*, *E. villosum*, *E. horridus*, *Cycas revoluta*, *C. circinalis*, *Macrozamia spiralis* and many other species. On the lawn, standing alone, is a magnificent plant of *Macrozamia Macleayi*, with a trunk 3 ft. high, 2 ft. thick, and with three large branches, each bearing broad, pinnate, glossy, dark-green leaves 6 ft. to 8 ft. long.

Dracaena Draco grows well in a very hot part of the garden, where is, also, a fine group of *Yucca Desmetiana*, one plant of which flowered for the first time last year. *Tacsonia manicata* forms great wreaths of bright scarlet flowers among the branches of some old Cork Oaks, and among the topmost branches of some very tall *Cupressus lusitanica*. A large plant of *Aloe supralaevis* is almost hidden by a huge bush of *A. arborescens*, which is a glory when hundreds of flower spikes appear on it in early spring; while towering above this is a group of *Strelitzia Augusta* and *Jacaranda ovalifolia*.

Palms are very numerous, and mention of only a few of the best must suffice: *Cocos flexuosa*, *C. Romanzoffiana*, *Washingtonia robusta*, the tallest Palm in the garden, about seventy feet high; *Kentia Belmoreana*, *K. Fosteriana*, with trunks 25 ft. high; *Phoenix canariensis*, *P. dactylifera*, *P. reclinata*, with seven well-furnished trunks from one root; *Brahea Roezlii*, *Areca Baueri*, *A. sapida*, *Jubaea spectabilis*, *Seaforthia elegans*, *Sabal Blackburniana*, and *Sabal umbraculifera*.

The many species and varieties of plants in the garden and serra are almost bewildering, from the huge *Quercus Phellos* (Willow Oak), the fine and rather rare *Q. lusitanica*, and the tall *Q. Ilex*, to the small, low-growing *Q. coccifera*, whose galls are used for tanning Morocco leather. This grows plentifully here, as does the tall *Q. Ballota*, which bears the "sweet" or edible acorn. Large groups of *Rhododendrons* and *Azaleas*, and *Camellias* of many species and varieties, form masses of colour in every available corner, and even overflow on to the lawns; and there is a large dell completely filled with *Rhododendrons*, which, rising up the steep mountain side, join and then mix with the grey, old Cork Oak trees.

In the old stable yard is a fine collection of various plants, including *Erythrina caffra*, *E. Crista-galli*, *Callistemon rigidum*, *Citrus trifoliata*, *Nolina curvifolia*, *Chamaedorea elatior*, etc. The front of the old stable itself is covered with *Bougainvillea glabra* (with a stem about eighteen inches thick at the base), which appears to be a solid wall of purplish-pink

flowers in the late summer. The other walls are covered with *Plumbago capensis* and *Holboellia latifolia*; and a small pergola close by is covered with *Hexacentris coccinea*, that has long racemes of reddish-brown flowers at Christmas time.

Together, with all this wealth of beauty and interest within, there are also many fine views and charming vistas to be obtained from the garden and terraces on to the country below and around. To the westward lies the broad, low valley of Collares, stretching to the sea four miles away, between hillsides covered with vineyards which spread out on either side so far as the eye can see. Beyond, to the horizon, spreads the Atlantic. To the north and east, magnificent views stretch over vineyards and hills and valleys, to Mafra, and to the mountains beyond, to the hills of the famous lines of Torres Vedras, which Wellington fortified against the French armies in 1805, to protect Lisbon and the last remnant of Portugal for the Portuguese. Above the garden, to the south and east, rise the serras, where the water is captured and led into two large, picturesque lakes which supply the gardens with the large amount of water required during the long drought in the heat of summer, and of which the overflow forms the waterfall and cascades in the ravine below. The serras are heavily wooded, but their chief charm lies in the richness of their natural flora.

The upper serras are formed of huge "tors" of granite boulders loosely piled up, on and between which many beautiful wild flowers grow; and all down the steep mountain side, to the famous "Rock of Lisbon" (*Cabo di Roca*), eight miles away, is filled with glorious colours and wonderful scent; while on the rocks around the lighthouse—the most westerly in Europe—there is a perfect carpet of flowers of many colours and many kinds that from a little distance appears like a beautiful mosaic of the richest colouring in the clear air and golden sunshine of Portugal, with the steep, dark brown cliffs above and the sparkling blue of the Atlantic far below.

