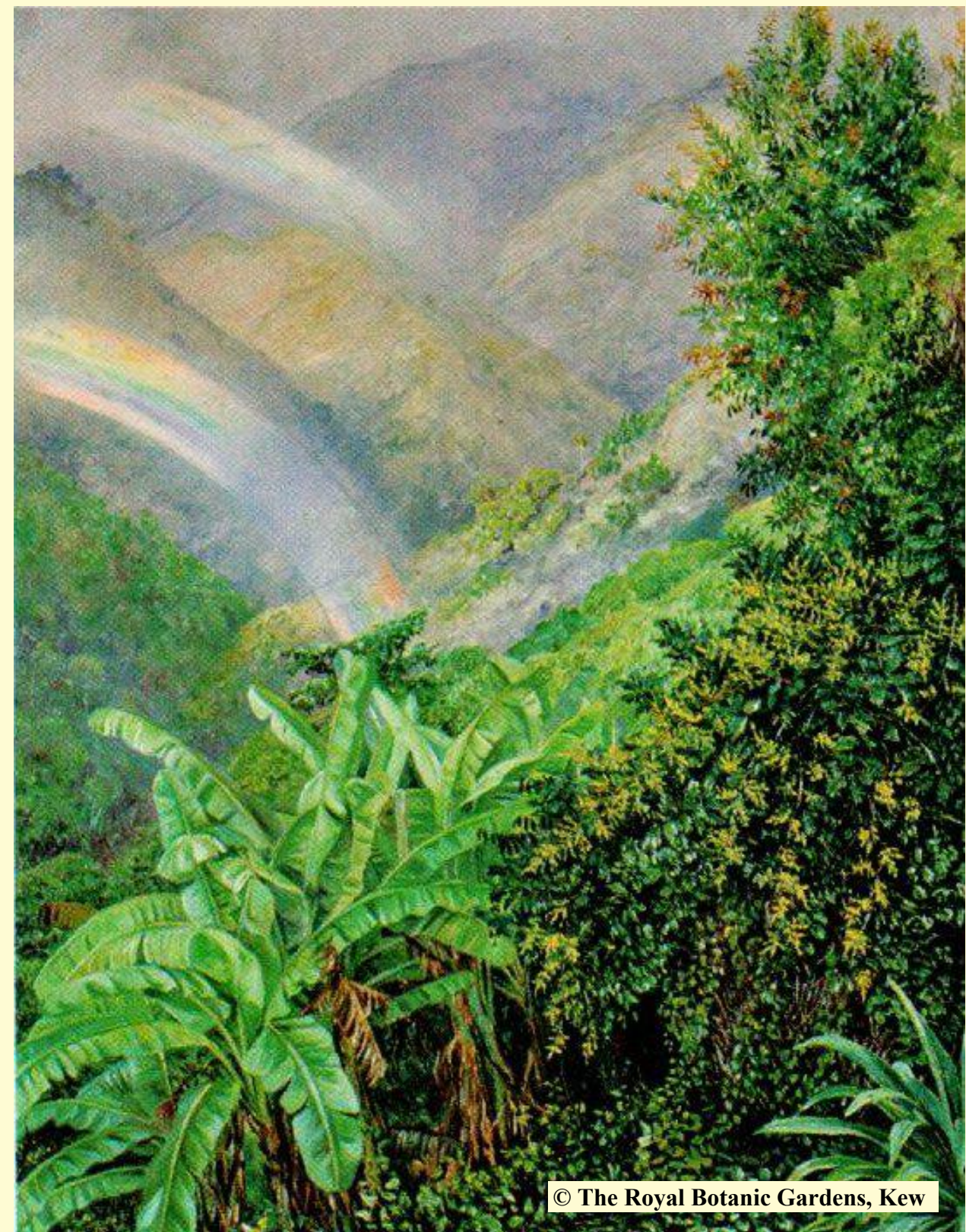




# 4 - Jamaica 1871 - 72

Marianne traveled from America in mid winter and clearly appreciated the move to a warmer climate “*In the West Indies at last! Christmas Eve! We passed Watling's Island and Rum Key, and after steaming through the crooked island passage we had a most exquisite sunset, the gold melting into pure blue so suddenly, and yet so softly, that one could hardly say where the beginning or ending of either colour was.....I landed entirely alone and friendless, but at once fell into kind helpful hands. A young Cuban engineer appeared from the moon or elsewhere, hunted up my luggage, paid my carriage and porters (for I had only American money), and saw me safe to the inn.*”



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Ackee, (*Blighia sapida*), also spelled akee, a tree native to West Africa, widely cultivated throughout tropical and subtropical regions for its edible fruit. Ackee and salt fish is a popular dish in the Caribbean and is the national dish of Jamaica. The soft, bland arils are eaten as a vegetable, though it is toxic, even fatal, if eaten unripe.

A tree lined road near Bath in Jamaica with Palms, Bread fruit and Cocoa trees.



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Marianne describes her accommodation on the island “*One day Mrs. C. took me a drive up the Newcastle road; when it came to an end we walked on, and I saw a house half hidden amongst the glorious foliage of the long-deserted botanical gardens of the first settlers, and on inquiry found I could hire it entirely for four pounds a month. It had twenty rooms altogether, and offices behind, and had been a grand place in its day.*”

Here she talks about the staff she employed during her stay. “*Betsy, to look after and "do" for me. She used to sit on the stairs or in the doorway and watch me, eating little odds and ends, and sleeping between whiles. She prided herself upon being "one of the Old Style Servants," which meant, I believe, old enough to have begun life as a slave ; consequently she had a contempt for all newfangled notions about dress. She wore one and a turban, and at night untwisted the latter article and put it on rather differently, that was her whole undressing. A second dress made her sole luggage.*” She also speaks of old Stewart who came with the house and wore a “*tattered old soldier's coat, who put his hand up to his forehead with a military salute whenever I looked at him. I gave these old people six shillings a week to take care of me, and felt as safe there as I do at home, though there was not a white person living within a mile. I had a most delicious bath: a little house full of running water, coming up to my shoulders as I stood in it; it was the greatest of luxuries in that climate.*”



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A selection of cultivated flowers grown in Jamaica



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The night flowering crinum lily



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The flowers, foliage and fruit of the Nutmeg tree. The seed is ground to make a spice popular in baking and sometimes sprinkled on rice pudding.