

# 6 - Teneriffe, California, Japan and Singapore 1875-1877

*“The winter after my return from Brazil I devoted to learning to etch on copper, Mr. Edwin Edwardes, who had illustrated the old inns of England, kindly giving me a few lessons. Friends seemed always accumulating round me and making life very enjoyable. I was called down to Netley to help to nurse my cousin, Dudley North, who had returned from Ashantee with three wounds and much fever, though he always maintained the savage who shot him was a gentleman, for he gave a yell first to warn him of the danger.”*

It is quite unusual to find Marianne complaining about anything despite visiting some very difficult locations worldwide. Though like a true Brit she does about our own climate.

*“The winter was an unusually cold one. After the experiences of the last two in Jamaica and Brazil I found it quite unbearable, so at last I determined to follow the sun to Teneriffe. M. E. and I started on New Year's day, 1875, in hard frost and snow, steaming from Liverpool in a wretched little steamer in a unpleasant squally weather.”*

After a few months in Tenerrife Marianne returned home but was already thinking of her next trip; *“I got home on the 8th of May, and was soon in the full enjoyment of a London season among good friends, exhibitions, and concerts. On the 17th of July I went down to the most agreeable country house I know that of Mr. Higford Burr, at Aldermaston. Some people I had never met before, Mr. and Mrs. S., asked me where I was going next, and I said vaguely, “Japan.” They said, “You had better start with us, for we are going there also, on the 5th of August” and, to their surprise, I said I would.*

They broke their journey in California having traveled overland;

*“The same driver drove us, a most villainous-looking bandit ; but he was a real good fellow, and had taken a liking for me because “I cared for neither bears nor Ingins,” and he gave me some rattlesnakes' tails and a great lump of bark from the big trees, looking like a brick of solid plush. His carriage broke down with the weight of Mrs. S.'s luggage (mere necessaries ! the rest having gone on to 'Frisco and £20 to pay for extra).”*



Common Aloe in flower Teneriffe



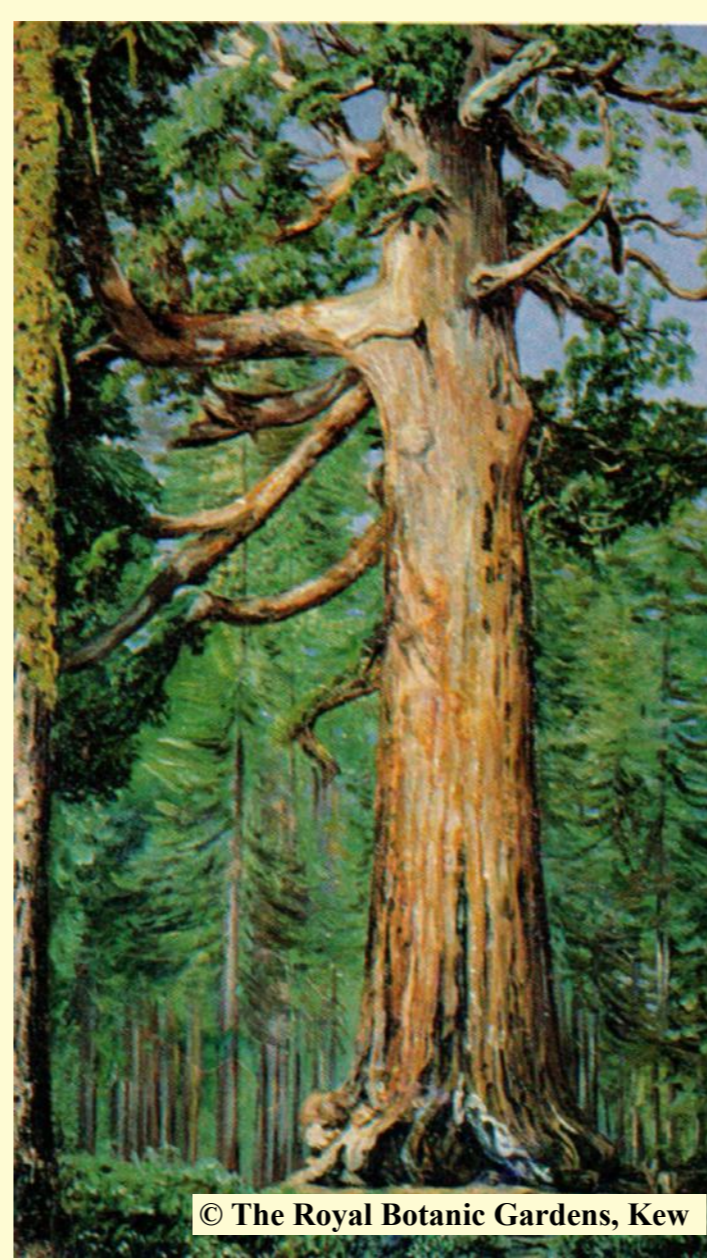
Cochineal Cactus in flow Teneriffe



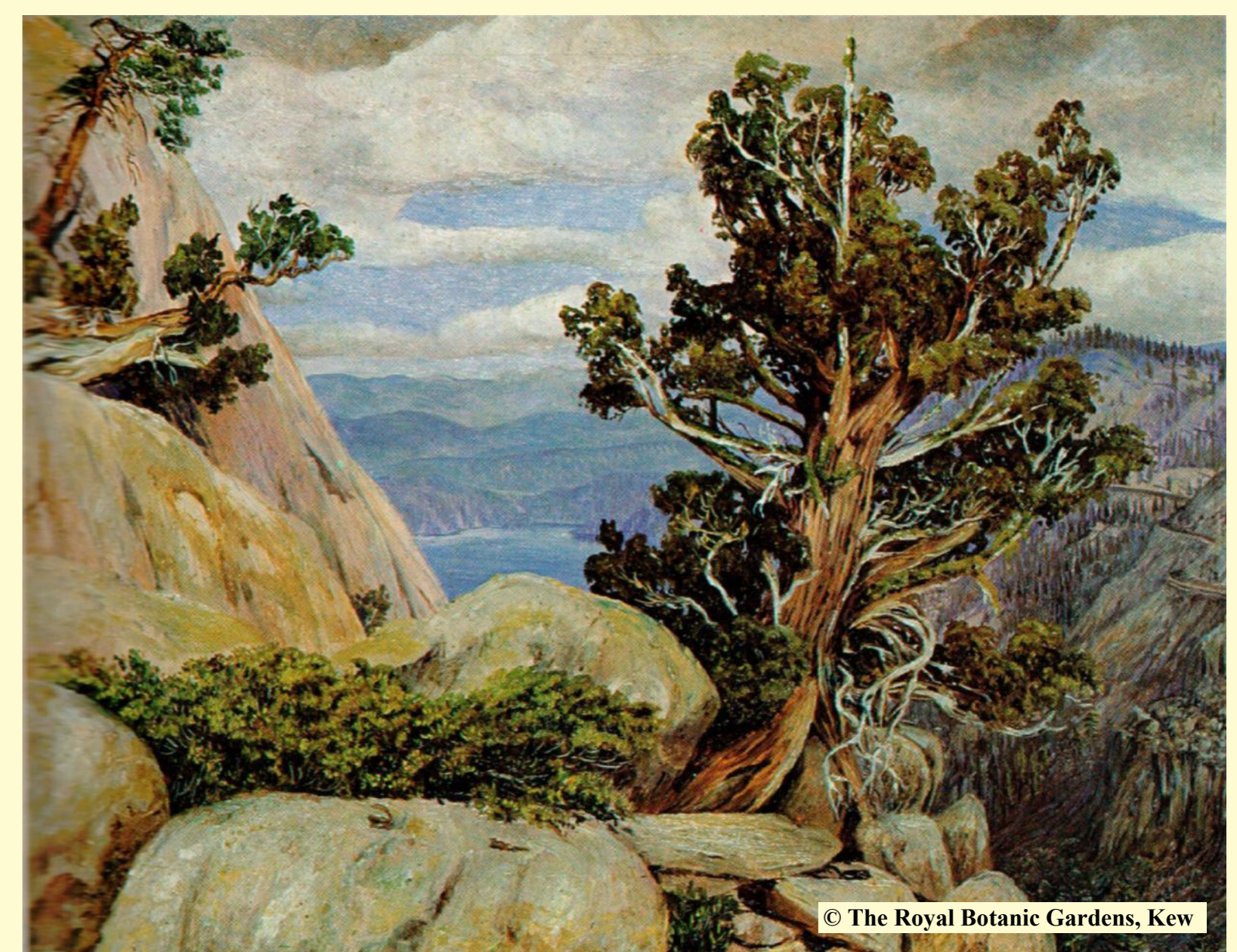
A Dragon Tree Teneriffe



The Crimson Snow Plant California, USA



The “Great Grisley” Big Tree California USA



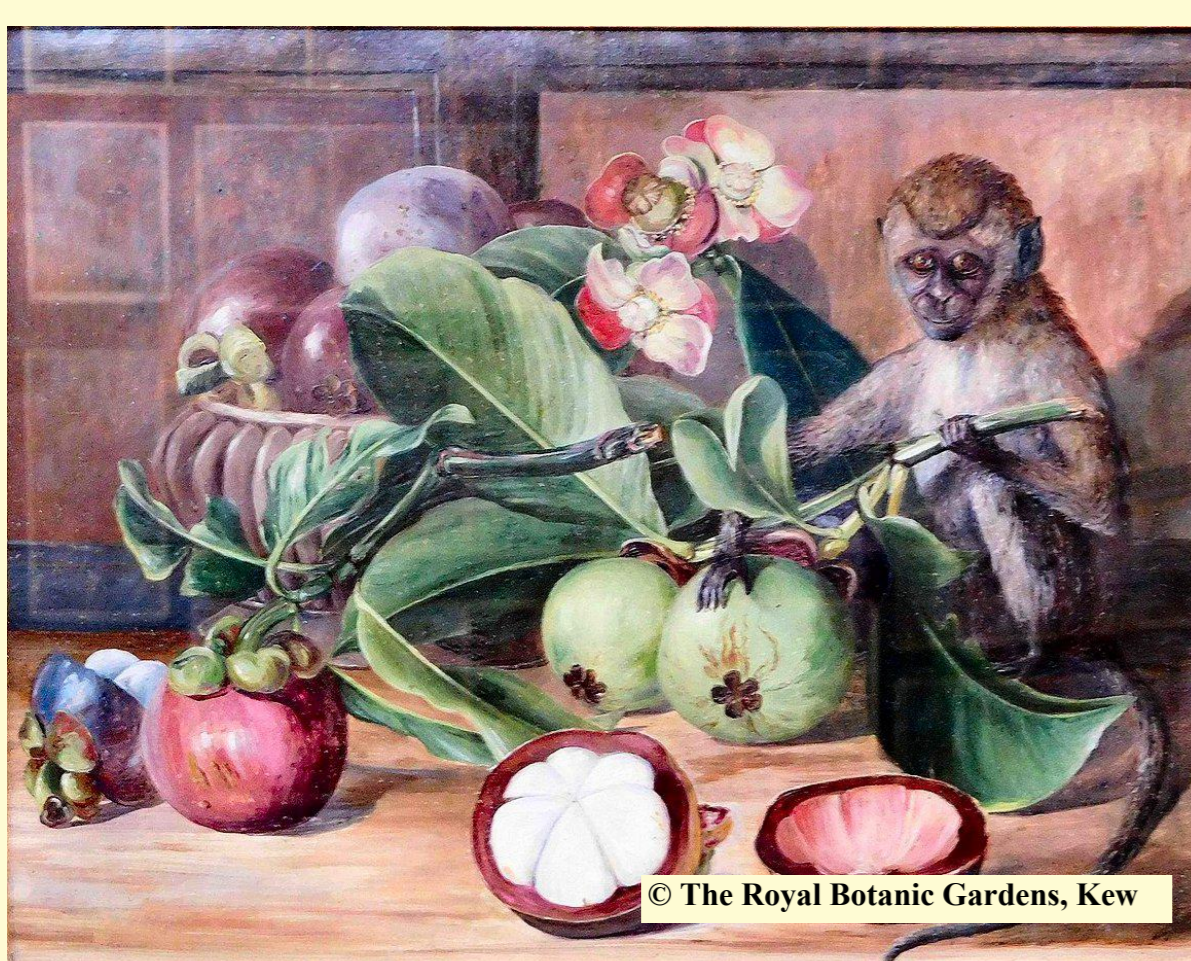
An Old Cypress Tree, Nevada Mountains, California USA



Mount Fujiyama, Japan with Wisteria Chinensis in the foreground

Marianne continued her journey; *“On the 16th of October I took possession of a splendid, large, airy cabin in the Oceanic, one of the finest steamers afloat, fitted up in the most luxurious way, with an open fireplace in a corner of the great saloon, which we were very glad of after the first week, as we went by the northern route, which was too cool for pleasure. We also had a superabundance of head-winds, and did not get on as fast as our captain wished. I used occasionally to think that we had more dead Chinamen on board than was altogether agreeable to our noses, every ship being obliged to take a certain number of these strange people's bodies back to their beloved fatherland.”*

The trip took about three weeks; *“We jumped in one day from the 28th to the 30th of October, and at daylight on the 7th of November found ourselves within sight of Fujiyama. I watched the sun rise out of the sea and redden its top, as I have seen so well represented on so many hand-screens and tea-trays.” and on her arrival observed; “It was a real sight to see the boats which surrounded us from all sides filled with tiny men in the oddest dresses, some looking like the straw umbrellas they put over beehives, some in strange stripes and checks, some in no clothes at all, or next to none, but all good-humoured and sensible, with their funny tufts of back-hair turned over their bald crowns, like clowns in pantomimes, and all their ways of doing things so unlike the ways of the rest of the world.”*

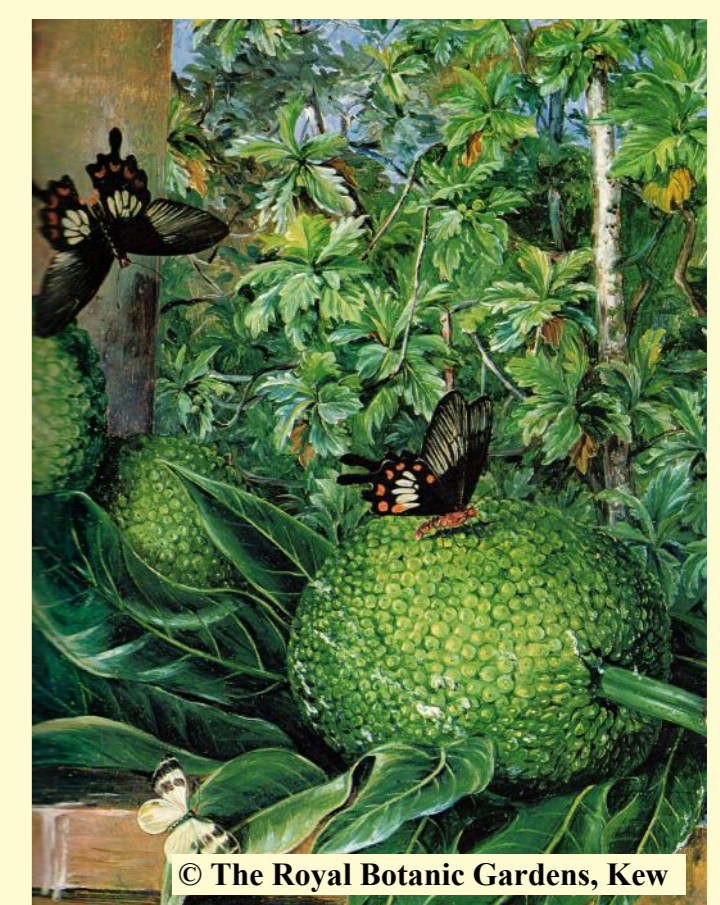


Flowers and fruit of the Mangosteen and a Singapore monkey



Japanese flowers and a yellow flowered Forsythia

*“Two more days brought us to Singapore, where I landed on the 19th of January 1876. I could barely hobble from the office of the hotel to my rooms at the other end of the building, through its lovely garden; but how delicious that still warm air was, with exquisite blue sky, lilac shadows, and white lights ! The figures which squatted under the verandah and portico had a grace about them which I had never seen before, and their rich dark complexions were the real thing.”*



Bread fruit, Singapore