A Dissertation

on the

History, Botanical, and Topographical sources of

Sarsaparilla.

By Henry Scott.
Introduction

Gentlemen, you may smile at my selecting for the materials of this subject, so unimportant a subject as Sarsaparilla, a subject you will be inclined to say like its odor has almost done to rage, by Dr. Franklin, Paré, and others before me, for anything further to be got out of it but that it is called for as such an investigation may appear at first sight upon further enquiry it will be found, that we have yet much to learn on this subject, with regard to the botanical and geographical sources of the drug.

Before entering upon this enquiry, I must pause on the threshold of my subject, to inform you on what grounds I have made such a choice. The materials I have put together are facts and reports from a work I have for some time past been engaged in, and in the first instance a fund of information afforded me on the subject by a friend who for years had travelled through the greater part of both Central and South America, and as a merchant had large dealings with the drug in Greece, in consequence, I may say, in his report of the article, the Bank, yerba and many other indigenous products, being frequently taken in place of cash for the manufactured commodities of Europe. This gentleman consequently made it a part of his business [though more in a commercial than a scientific point of view] to collect whatever information he could on this subject, with the object of tracing out the best sorts. These enquiries he first commenced in Central America, and some years later on the South American Continent, and in addition to this information, whenever he had an opportunity, collected samples of the root, dried specimens and in some instances, drawings of the plant in its natural state. Having had the privilege of looking over these materials, together with a mass of papers and drawings on the native products of South America, I selected from among them, the subject of Sarsaparilla, and was allowed to make copies of the figure, specimens, and whatever related to the subject. Plotting these together, I began to compose notes written which had already been staid or done on Sarsaparilla. This of course led to further enquiry, until at last, to my astonishment! I found out something required a special study.

Since embarking in this enquiry, it has been a matter of great interest to me to see what results have been obtained, and how far the subject has been advanced. I have attempted to collect as much information as possible relating to the subject, and have endeavored to make the most of it. I have been able to find a considerable number of old and new documents relating to the subject, and have been able to make a good deal of progress in this direction.

I trust that my efforts will not have been in vain, and that the results obtained will be of some value. I have been able to make a good deal of progress in this direction, and have been able to find a considerable number of old and new documents relating to the subject. The results obtained will be of some value, and I trust that my efforts will not have been in vain.
In the "Correspondence of Linneas" we find the Celebrated Metals referring to the subject of Sarsaparilla and a letter to the Younger Linneas says "Sarsaparilla is the Drug of choice in the treatment of many diseases." This is not at all improbable under the favoring circumstance of climate adding to its eliminative effects, to say nothing of its quick root, and any method is an important item in the prescription, if it applies to the mode of administering the remedy, generally adopted by the Indian tribes of South America. (Footnote)

From these remote dates to the present day, this drug has held a prominent place in our "Medicinal Metals." While its popularity has continued to spread, and its consumptions gone on increasing, it has long been regarded by many as a phosphatic agent of considerable Value, and a means of combating a large class of disorders said to disappear under its use, and that, often after other means had been tried in vain. Though from causes the that heretofore have occasion to consider, it has been treated with variable success, and not infrequently doubtful, there are many who believe in this miracle drug; its usefulness has often been demonstrated. One drug has a variety of uses and found its way into every clinic, and its reputation, as it has to this day, has been no lack of good reports, according as it has answered the expectations of some, or disappointed the hopes of others.

Sarsaparilla, as every body now knows, was first introduced to the notice of the European faculty as an anti-syphilitic, and was looked upon at the time, as nothing less than an absolute specific, in any and every phase of that disease; however, experience proved, that notwithstanding, it might remove these disorders among the natives of a warmer clime like South America (where it doubtless both modifies and cures disease) the "Liver Venereal" of Europe would not yield to it. Thus failing to perform all the miracles expected of it, many began to question its curative powers altogether; others took the contrary view, and the Conquista was the drug fell into disuse, and was left out of sight for a generation or a century. Beyond this few began to consider whether the remedy had any further claim, and it is now for medical skill might reckon on its assistance as an auxiliary means, until at length its place or other more metallic viruses be said to be discredited. Namely — that although it might exert any immediate effect upon the primary phases of the Malady, yet so many of the secondary and more intractable forms of the disease, in which Memory seemed of so little account, on the power of the system again made it use; Sarsaparilla was one of infinite value; while added to this it received a stimulus from roots more direct, and removed the ill effects left behind it. In consequence of the benefit said to have been derived from it, it again came into repute as rapidly as it went out; not only as a remedy in Venereal and syphilitic affections, but in a variety of other hectic States of the system and diseases associated therewith. In Skirrup, this disease, and Chronic Asthenia, in "arrective and consumptive habits" and a multitude of Complaints in which we are told it was found successful.

Its action was believed to be that of a diuretic, and ultimately depurative, according to the physiological the day "correcting a deformed State of the fluids." It was popularly known as a "Sweeter of the Blood", next as a "purifier", then as —
In 1731 — Referring to "Mitis Botanica, Distillation" we read under the head of Saraparilla: "This root is now highly recommended in rheumatic affections, scrofula, and chronic complaints; and in most disorders wherein an alimentation of the fluids prevail."

In 1734 — Blackwell: "On the most useful plants now employed in the practice of physicians" observes, "the Saraparilla root is most stimulating and sedative. Much used in hot drinks, it is credited to greatly strengthen the blood, and is very serviceable in great rheumatism and fever."

In 1768 — Louis in his Materia Medica referring to Saraparilla remarks: "Although perhaps unequal to the Charas of a specific, yet few suprised, it appears however from experience, that the direction dunsch fillingly and daily continued, is of very considerable service in promoting perspiration, and what is called 'sweetening' or purifying of the blood and humour."

But we find the great virtue of this remedy made use of towards the latter part of the last century, when brought into frequent notice by Dr. William Hunter and Sir W. Foddeley. This gentleman held a very high opinion of the claims of this drug, and as may state—Positively as a Specific, yet not always when combined with mercury and other remedies, the disease was much sooner subdued than when these were administered alone; and that, in addition to the many formidable symptoms, which had not only assisted mercury, but seemed augmented by it alone, rapidly gave way under the influence of Saraparilla."

In 1800 — Mr. Pearson treating the subject in his "Observations on the effects of the various articles of the Materia Medica used in the Case of Liver Yeastness." He says, "The contagious matter, and the Malaria Specific may jointly produce in certain habits a new series of symptoms, more to be dreaded than the effects of the Venereal Virus. The next formidable of these appears may be removed by Saraparilla and the same vegetable it capable of curing the patient from the Sequelae of a Malarial Course."

In 1820 — Mr. Brocot, many years Surgeon of the Guards — Discussing the relative Value of Mercury, Arsenicum, Quinacrin, China Root, and Sarca, says: "The Quinacrin..." says: In combination with mercury, many useful medicines may be joined, and of these I think it is difficult to speak too highly in praise of Saraparilla, like mercury it has had a variety of forms, so that at one time it has been pitted with a degree of exaggeration, at another it is credited entirely, at present it rather appears to be more rationally estimated. When genuine (for its adulteration is frequent) it exerts a very beneficial influence in many chronic cases, when mercury disagree, and in its small doses, the effect produced appears to be more decisive than by the employment of either medicine singly."

This brings us down to the days of that singular London Surgeon, Abernethy.
In his "Lectures on Pathology" he tells us in his usual bluffs style: "Now I generally advise my patients to take a pint of Somnambulism three times a day...speak if they like it...I have made a wonderful change in a person who applied to me pale and emaciated...I increased his weight fifteen pounds a week and some got well. I know a case of a gentleman whose appetite failed, he only took it a short time and was actually able to eat a pound of black-stale bread for breakfast, and became stout and strong."

The "Transactions of the Medical Botanical Society" some years later introduced us to Dr. Handslo, a gentleman whose disease is considered of great weight on the subject. He seems to think the preparation had a very limited value when exposed to the test of the drug in a manner to its first introduction as a remedy in apoplexy. Moreover, he does not estimate it of any great use as a specific.

Mr. H. observes: "The medical and surgical discussion about the specific action of Somnambulism in apoplexy, has led me to believe that its therapeutics as a great and useful remedy...Is the most useful error into which many of the people as well as the public have fallen with regard to this medicine, in that of considering it as one of the best of complaints? Why, so much applicable to many, seems difficult to account for. Unless it can be traced to its first introduction as an anti-epileptic. Some time centuries ago, since which so little progress appears to have been made in properly explaining its properties, or extending its utility...But, of course, of its great efficacy of the medicine, when applied, I do not consider it was within be limited in circles. I would equally insist on its claims as a remedial agent in a large multiplicity of disorders, in which it is daily being discovered to be of the greatest advantage..."

In 1837, Dr. Segard published a set of papers on this subject in the Edinburgh Review. He says, "Somnambulism is one of the most important and valuable drugs to possess. Yet such has been the carelessness with which it has been treated, that the medical profession are by no means unanimous either in its practice or in the diseases in which it should be employed, or in the efficiency of the preparation obtained from it." I am persuaded (John Gurney), that there is no article of the materia medica more useful and more applicable to a vast number of diseases. The Physicians and Surgeons of St. George's Hospital were unanimous in the efficacy of Somnambulism, although the majority were in favour of the medicine. I believe the cause of its failure was not understood. The great error has been a want of careful attention to the species of Somnambulism from which the most cases derive, and the mode of preparing it as well as the quality of the drug, all sorts of things are sold under the name of Somnambulism and actually sometimes cheaper in the home market than it can be purchased abroad.

Having traced its history thus far, I shall pass over the opinions of its more modern advocates, such as the late Professor. The late Professor and the late lamented Sir Geo. are great names for Somnambulism. I would have (indeed to the majority of the heads of London hospitals) and since the information of the London hospitals in following years) because to proceed, I must leave the reader to refer to their works. Since I have hardly taken space by quoted...and never go on to make a few general remarks with regard to the claims of this drug, its therapeutic action, causes of failure, etc. I simply wish to point to the fact that the use of Somnambulism should be employed to be of the greatest benefit. Thus, "now at all." Not with any hope of settling the question, but leaving them for or against it, to draw their own conclusions from these observations..."
We are told “Physicians put very little faith in the remedy Surinam, a great deal.” I do not think this applies to many London Physicians I know who prescribe some preparations of this drug very frequently both alone and in combination with other drugs. I have been known to do so; however the Surgeons for Continental Ways, and probably will continue to do so, as long as they meet with such cases in which this remedy is more frequently called into requisition. Namely, those Surgeries disease accompanied with some hectic condition, dyspepsia, diarrhoea or broken-down constitution, in which at least Gentleman will inform you, the “Vita Medicina Naturalis” is show poor, and the patient left in such a delicate condition that they are likely to get better to prescribe, other alternatives are not to be avoided, other tonics or restoratives only increase irritability, they turn to Larrea and they will tell you frequently with the best effect; for those who take it gradually and at a moderate improvement in some persons is apparent, digestion and defecation, with a more regular action of the bowels in general, short that I made a series of changes either to bring about either in the process of nutrition, or the constitution of the body itself, that at length both the Caron by which it was induced and the disease disappear together.

With respect to the frequent failure of the remedy, this is allowed on all sides, take no less the list of the drug and its preparations; they are liable to adulteration, cheap substitutes, and more than all in this case, the rapid decomposition of the drug. Non-Concentrated forms readily undergo; but these are necessarily expensive. However, when such can be employed, and they are really cheaper in the end. The very successful case succeed by far the few instances of failure. These are the form of the disease generally adopted both by Physicians and Surgeon, and they decided upon the superiority in efficacy to the old remedies and operations. The wanted benefit said to be derived from these are not simply confined to mere curative effect; in former days, but are equally manifest in many other cases: either to Passenger or Anemic; Eclampsia, and other conditions of the Lungs, to which elimination or Restorative Agents are indicated. Indeed, when the disease is accelerated with, or due to faulty digestion, putridation, febrility, and the desired object is to restore their functions, and through them the normal character of the blood. Some say it is capable of bringing about a more healthy tone of the system, and that it is useful in Chronic affections of the Liver (possibly in common with the improvement of the secreting organ.) This I cannot pretend to determine. I certainly know an eminent Indian practitioner in London who employs it rather largely and it deals very successfully in these hectic cases accompanying with the Munich-brown-colored Complexion with 10th among Maligne in search of health, after a long residence in what climate.

As to the precise Therapeutic action of this drug, its physiological effect are far too slight to furnish us with any very definite information. Its most obvious action is that of a diaphoretic when favored by climate, warm weather, exercise or clothing, and when it is also tonic and restorative, some cold nutritive, but they rather explain its effects than "Modus Operandi" the exact nature of which we are unable to determine. Nevertheless the late frequently told me “The leaf was usually infected, first under its use, and the bottle and such another improve in Complexion.” Now of this latter we may assume some change takes place in the nutritive fluids, but, many of its advocate believe to be the case, and look upon it as a blood medicine possessing both the propertie of a —
Restorative and depurative, that it not only supplies the blood in its new nutritive element, but ultimately rid it of any noxious agent, disease - the presence of poisons, or disordered nutrition may have developed. Thus, and it is supposed to effect its two ways - first, by its primary action in improving digestion, clarification and fermentation, thus perhaps rendering the blood more fluid principle. Second, by its subsequent behaviour in removing the activity of the secreting organs, and playing the part of an eliminant as it makes its exit from the body via the glands, thereby removing from the blood any morbid products. Whether or not we may accept this supposition, in the absence of more direct evidence, to explain the therapeutic agency of the drug, I leave that to decide. Any of these immediate or marked effects, we are safe to believe, are from more powerful remedies, we may look for in this instance in Tinos. Its operation is slow, and beyond slightly augmenting the secretion, almost imperceptible, but nevertheless we cannot say that these voluntary changes are in due time may not be going on in the system; because which we must not forget, that it is the very attribute of an alternative to do its work. Without any sensible observation, perhaps much in the same way that a drop of water in time wears a hollow one stone, not by its violence, but by its frequent falling. Again, we have abundant evidence to show, it does not need a very potent agency, little to produce a change for the worse, or the better, in the constituents of that susceptible and ever-changing fluid, the blood. The source of health, and "fons et origo" of disease.

Now besides those who believe it shall all this, among whom may be numbered, men having large opportunities of observing its effects, there are others who will tell you, "I do not believe such a thing." When doctors differ, who shall decide? Not I, nor I believe any man, who may enter into the merits or demerits of a drug, that has given rise to more discussion, and discrepancy of opinion, than perhaps any other article within the whole range of the materia medica. Moreover, I may venture to say, with due deference to both sides of the question, from all I have seen or heard on the subject, that there may be in this instance, as in other instances mentioned, frequently less occasions to question the merit of the medicine, than the source from which it is obtained, the quality of the drug, from which it is prepared, and above all the process employed in preparing it. Thus it is folly of good Sarsaparilla imported into this country, but very often an old advice applies to preparation of the root, as in the case of food, "God sends the devil sends Cook". Thus, there are also inferior names, and the character, the original genuine, and other substitutes for the root, which have always been observed by one of those I have cited, "all manner of trash" may be sold under it name, to which a part or the difference of opinions may be due; probably one, many patients get a good dose of the medicine containing all the active properties of the genuine drug, in perfect preservation, and experience the benefit of it, another - meets with some worthless decomposed stuff, and derives none. Besides this, there are circumstances also, that even materially influence the operation of the best forms of the remedy, namely, seasons, and again, it must be taken in sufficient quantity to reach the point of saturation. Consequently, at any one or more of these causes we get different results, that may account for the reason why, so as frequently have, that it fails in the hands of those to be of any service whatever, while others find it a most efficient remedy.
Between those who have great faith in Quinine, and those who have none at all, it is not uncommon to meet with many who hold a middle opinion, with respect to its claim. I must say, although they have less confidence in it alone, nevertheless, when combined with other means, such as Nux vom, The Iodides, Iron Sulphate, celestine, Tarascen, the Alkalies &c., they find its considerable service; and prescribe it accordingly. This includes a large number of English Physicians, who give it, conjointly with these Remedies, in chronic Rheumatism, chronic Gout, Lumbago and Arthritic Affections, Skin diseases and other Constitutional and Chronic Affections. Putting over any special claims, the remedy may be said, as in eliminative or restorative, administered alone, there are certainly many cases in which its co-operation, seems not less wanted, for at all events the very frequently finds it associated with other therapeutical agents in prescription, besides more ephemeral, often produced by the best means, and medicines adding to the efficacy of the latter. But with regard to the habit of Malaria and the Iodides, it seems almost indefinable, indeed, I may say in London, they are seldom ordered without it. It is well known, no home remedy, even the smallest doses of these, produce such an amount of mischief, that the remedy is often worse than the disease, rather aggravating than relieving the symptoms, and generally producing more of the properties of the Vital Force. Now these effects, I feel convinced may be, and are in many cases avoided by such remedies being combined, with a good dose of Quinine. I could give a very striking instance, that occurred to a friend of mine, suffering from a severe affectation of the Glands of the neck (the otherwise known) (which the Iodide of Potassium, I believe, Inflamed, Lymphintomy), played such frightful havoc in the system a few doses that it was obliged to be discontinued. Yet, some days later he recommended the same in combination with Quinine, and he much effect followed, in the contrary the least favorable results; he continued it for the long term, then left out the Iodide, and took the Quinine alone a short time; suppression ceased, was never looked for to go quite away, thus was the only two medicines he had to the mixture took,od Sulphate, Iron, and every other tonic. I might add many similar cases occurring in our Hospitals, in which these frequently occur. The tonic improver, elevation of Bile, increase of heat and the Mans, substituted in place of Quinine (as a vehicle for such remedies), in which I have heard many say, that there is Smaller doses of some of these (when combined with the Constitution) suffice do to the same amount of work. That I leave time to determine, but there can be no doubt, that it very materially modifies the violent action of many potent remedies, especially the Iodide, preventing their evacuation and destruction, of strength they are apt to produce without it. The debilitating home side, as its debilitating disorders, it tends to support the patient's strength, and perhaps if it may be allowed the simile, serves a similar purpose that props do to a dilapidated dwelling—prevents the fabric falling about our ears. While the repairs are going on.

With regard to the best form in which Quinine should be administered, I think, the recently too little attention paid to the Concentrated preparations, the great benefit of this, in which it has hitherto been the fashion to prescribe this remedy, was decidedly objectionable, and gave great offense to the stomach, a few dropperfuls of the fluid extract in a little water, will be found more efficient. While it is Really the Only Condition, in which the Remedial Agent is capable retaining its Virtue.
Botany

Sarcoparia is already observed to be the root of certain species of Simila (Euphorbiaceae), the systematic name of a genus of plants belonging to the subdivision of Melanoideae. The species and the family belong to the order of the Melanocytes, and to the Linnaean class and order of the Melanocytes. The several species of this extensive genus are chiefly found inhabiting the warmer and tropical regions of both hemispheres, from the extremely cold regions of South America, through the warmer parts of Central and North America, to the southern parts of Europe. But notwithstanding Simila contains a very numerous genus, with species, probably not more than two or three, really afford root furnishing the true officinal drug. Indian Sarcoparia. None for the most part are found growing in the fertile regions of Tropical America. The precise geographical limit, appears not yet determined, but as far as my information goes, they appear to extend north to the Gulf of Mexico and South as far as the province of Paraguay. The Nile. Being a plant materially affected by climate, it seems exclusively confined to its own zone, soil, and locality, inhabiting the humid forests, and wooded banks of large rivers and their tributary streams, intersecting the country of its growth. It flourishes most on the lower coast lands, and in the west-central Valley of the Country, but it also found growing on the slopes of the Mountains, at an elevation of 5,000 feet above the level of the Sea. The plant is indigenous to most parts of Tropical America, and being essentially of a polygamous character, appears to be cultivated there under the most favorable circumstances. Several experiments of the kind having failed, in the West Indies, it forms a kind of evergreen gigantic thistle-like, climbing to a considerable height, and by means of its long tendrils, attaching itself to the stems and branches of neighboring trees. The species of Simila, assumed to yield Sarcoparia, are botanically distinguished by certain peculiarities in their leaves and stem. There, the plant appears to need the aid of species, but the following appears to constitute the chief characteristic of the tree plant, and which secured of the supposed species, though known by different synonyms, more or less perfect of.

Stem — Twining, shrubby, round or angular, and more or less armed with spines, according to age and growth. The young shoots are green and round, about the thickness of a small finger, the older ones thick and woody, twisted, and contorted, with a tendency to climb, pertaining partly of the character of the branches, as Zaraza, one half of the Spanish name implies, and partly of The Vines (parilla), which forms the other half, meaning a Thorny Vine.

Leaves — When fully grown, ovate or oblong, more or less Coriaceae at the base, and tapering towards the apex, smooth and shining on the upper surface, of a deep green, paler beneath, three or four inches in six or eight long, but they vary considerably during growth. The younger ones being comparatively much longer, more pointed, and the coriaceae, they are corrugated and have five longitudinal veins running from the base to the apex. Petiole one to three inches long, bearing tendrils at the base.

Flowers, minute, springing from an axillary position, in the form of an umbel. Six-parted. Spreading, generally of a pale straw color. Male flowers having 6 stamens with one calyx; female, an ovary, 3-celled. Aving a short style with 3 reflexed stigma. The fruit is succeeded by a bunch of reddish brown berries, about the size of the fruit of the Oak, the Tamarillo Corolla (forming the plum color) from the upper.
part of which, spring the young slender sheet and aerial stems, and below, the numerous divergent fibers forming the Sarsaparilla; they run just below the surface of the soil, frequently extending 10 or 30 feet. Externally brown, internally white (woody core and first coarse layers), should be crimson color,闻 said about the thickness of the shell, but it varies in thickness, measured, and color, from a light brown or gray color to a deep red, according to the quality, humidity, or color of the soil in which it vegetation.

In referring to the botanical sources of the drug, or the several species of Sniffles, from which it is said to be derived, we must not forget to guard against an error into which some are supposed to have fallen, with regard to necessarily multiply their number. Many contend Sarsaparilla, to be the product of numerous species of the genus, while others believe, not more than two or three of the most, can really be said to furnish the genuine root. Dr. Henderson was of the opinion, for example, of the Six or eight Species of Sniffles, I am growing in the Woods of Gilead. I never found that the manufacture in the tincture the several qualities of the genuine Medicinal Sarsaparilla, as well as the best being for the most part perfectly injurious in the mouth and offense, and at least as my experience goes, I should say nearly inert at Remedies. "Of its description of the plant (which will be found in its place with the rest), I will be very nearly to agree with Sirn. Varis, of the True Species, however, whether the drug is on the produce of one and the same species, perhaps it would be premature to decide, but it is evident several plants of this genus closely resembling each other in character, the furnish root of similar properties, as well as appearance. Whether the slight variations, we shall account for among the limited number alluded to are sufficient to warrant a division of the whole of them, is a matter of reflection. The few I more particularly refer to, are those to which we are chiefly indebted for the supply of this drug, some once or twice in number, as they now stand, but those are allowed to take into consideration the certain natural changes I shall immediately mention, together with the slight botanical differences which separate them. I believe these number may be more reduced, if the great part of them are not ultimately found to be identical.

But dealing with the True species, there is a wise difference between one plant and another, not only in reference to the value of the product, but in regard to the perfection of the plant itself, which varies materially in quality and structure according to the latitude, elevation, locality, or soil in which it is found; indeed it may be altered for better or worse, and changed in character and appearance by these circumstances, that it is not at all improbable many of our systematic botanists may have been led to divide the species of the same plant under different circumstances, into too many distinct species. The remarkable variations of the leaves and stems appear to endure, between these variousx and mature development, might easily lead us to mistake them for something more. Some of the changes we have already alluded to. The stems of a young plant are round; older ones, angular furnished; or strait, and lined with thorns, at the older ones they are coarse, or rough, with curved or crooked, without and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or four others, or irregular in the smooth, or rough, and Coriaceous, three or fou
The same fields good work regard to the Root, that collected from purely the same species, offering far finer phenomena, and exhibiting the sensible qualities of the drug in a much greater degree in some localities, than it does in others. The powerful influence of soil makes a marked difference both in reference to the color, and texture (or rather consistence) principle of the product. The roots of the same species, growing in a similar locality, are found to be comparatively colorless and insipid. Compared with those dug from a richer soil, those from the loam or from a cinnamon color to a dark brown or chest red, and as I am informed, when recent and succulent, are very pungent, (acrid) and when dry, leaves a burning sensation in the throat; paint an increased flow of saliva, and more or less nausea and vomiting. [*Physiological effect perhaps worth while remembering.]* The clay soils appear to produce the strongest roots, or what are commercially called the *Quality* Kind.

It appears certain, that the inhabitants in many parts of both central and South America, gotten good, bad, or indifferent, and even the roots of doubtful species, having any resemblance to the genuine drug. These inferior or spurious kinds finding their way into the European markets, may in a measure, account for the diversity of opinion, which is due to the claims of the remedy, as widely different wilt have followed them. Nevertheless it seems, that the French are by no means ignorant of the character of the plant, furnishing the true *Garciparilla,* or at all events the best quality of the drug; they do not distinguish it so entirely as we do perhaps, but it appears practically to the same purpose. My information states, that the Peruvians who collected the root, could determine beforehand the quality they expected to find, likewise those of the full grown leaves, and that they looked out more particularly for the large oval-shaped pointed leaf, heart shaped with base. This is the native considered the type of the true kind, and the reason, it appears, the leaves approached this form. The finer the root, the more marked its taste, and the higher price it fetched at the dealers.

In referring to the form, or outline of the leaves, it appears in some parts (central America, more particularly,) that *Garciparilla,* and roots sold as *Garciparilla,* are collected from plants bearing different kinds of leaves, as well as the modified forms already mentioned, as distinguishing the true plant; hence for the sake of comparison I will place the whole together, arranging them in the order in which they exist: 

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oval-oblong, cordate acute</th>
<th>Cordate - acuminate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oval-oblong, obtuse</td>
<td>Long - acuminate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cordate - acuminate</td>
<td>Lanceolate - hastate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cordate - obtuse</td>
<td>Hastate, and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cordate - hastate</td>
<td>Irregular species</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The first are the modifications common to the true species, being it is said, fagaracally found on the same plant, but the latter form or fine, although they furnish roots resembling *Garciparilla,* these possess none of the properties of the genuine drug, neither do the fibers exhibit the same longitudinal fissures we find in the genuine, which it frequently seems to adulterate.
Species

By the above term, I believe we are to understand those plants of a family, or genus, so closely agreeing in character and composition, as to constitute all and the same kind; and that any deviations from this, in a particular species, or more differences in external character, from that which makes another individual in the same category (and which may be brought about by the natural causes already spoken of) can only be regarded as a Variety. I mean to mention this by way of prelude to the enquiry, because I found upon first handling the subject, for want of not hearing it by my mind, or rather hearing it applications in some cases, I frequented became confused and undecided as to which were, or were not Species. But I find we must not take it for granted, that all those plants known to yield Sarsaparilla, bearing different names, or distinguished by some superficial character (perhaps of little botanical importance) are really so many different Species; indeed some have been too great a stress on these trifling distinctions, while in several instances the slight difference of description tended more, two or more botanists, have at different times, evidently been describing Species of the same plant.

We read of the Medicinal Species of this Order under various synonyms, as -
S. officinale, S. sphyphiwm, S. papynacea, S. medica, and several others; some botanists classifying them according to certain peculiarities in their leaves and stems, while we get S. olacora, cordate, ovata, et. al., according to the country of its growth, when we get S. Brahmei, S. Campanulae, Paronychias, et al., and these we might go on multiplying names, and creating unnecessary divisions and confusions.

In the present instance therefore, perhaps it will be wise not to deal with more of these, than may be absolutely necessary for the purpose. Namely the chief one from which the several commercial Varieties of Sarsaparilla, are known to be derived; to this, I shall add one, and arrange the whole, in order to see if in what respects they differ or agree. In some instances (as perhaps in the S. officinale) the chief source of the Central American Sort, they may constitute distinct Species, but with respect to the majority, I am much inclined to believe, they are but different growths of the same.

S. officinale, Knuts. - Stem twining, shrubby, prickly, quadrangular, smooth; Young shoots unarmed, and more cylindrical. Leaves ovate, oblong, acute, cordate, nutate, 5-7 nerves, smooth, carinate, a foot long, and from 4-5 inches broad; Youngous narrow, oblong, acuminate and 3 nerves. Petiole smooth, an inch long, bearing two tendrils above the base.

S. sphyphiwm, Humboldt. - Stem more cylindrical, and less prickly, unarmed with leaves at the Knuts only. Leaves ovate-oblong, or oblong-obovate, cordate and acuminate, 5-ribbed, carinate, smooth and shining, and in every other respect agreeing with S. officinale. [Probably a young plant of the same?]

S. papynacea, Poiret. - Stem, quadrangular or plane-angular, polished, prickly. Leaves somewhat membranous (young ones); ovate-oblong, obtuse, or petiolar, at the Apex entire, serrate, 5-ribbed. Cloths spring from midst of petiole.
S. medica. Schlechtendal. - stems angular, more or less prickly, branches armed at the joints with strong spines, and a few hooked ones at intervals. Leaves somewhat papery, and generally more auriculate - hastate, or lanceolate-hastate, than the south american varieties, though they vary considerably, some being cordate, others ovate-cordate, smooth, 5-7 nerves. Inflorescence an 8-12-flowered umbel, supported on an axillary peduncle, about an inch long, bright red, about the size of a small cherry, containing 1-3 reddish brown seeds.

S. braziliana. Handsack. - stems cylindrical, and more or less armed with short curved spines. Leaves ovate-oblong, pointed, distant, smooth and glossy, and of a dark green colour. Roots tuberous, with numerous brownish fibres, three or four lines in thickness, and several feet in length, forming the "Zarza del Río Negro". Apparently identical with S. surinamica (Humboldt) and S. papuana. (Maevius) (Peoppie) (Riedel).

S. paraguayensis. (See figure.) Stems climbing and twining, young ones round, green or becoming, when first springing from the rhizomes, oblong; older ones woody, twisted, costate, nodulated or furrowed. Transverse section compressed. Branches somewhat filamentous or luminaceous, and armed at intervals with sharp curved spines. Leaves papillose or coriaceous, according to age, long ovate-lanceolate, acuminate, from 3 to 6 inches long, and about a third as broad at the base. Deep green on the upper surface, paler beneath, netted, 5-ribbed. Petioles (shining from a leathery shining appendage) bearing two long cilia at the base. Inflorescence a many-flowered umbel, arising from an axillary peduncle. Flowers of a pale straw colour. Succeeded by reddish brown berries, containing 3 flattened round seeds. Roots composed of several or disjunct fibres, starting from the rhizomes, and sometimes extending upwards of twenty feet in length.

The figure is from one of the drawings referred to in my introduction, worked out carefully by Dr. Sprengel from the same sources.

Collected on the Paraguay side of the Parana, near Curupita, between Villa del Po, and the province of Corrientes. It appears however, that the plant is not limited to any particular locality, but grows wide, and in the greatest abundance all over Paraguay. It is the source of the "Salsa paraguaya" of the Parana and Uruguay, and that of Paraguay, as brought across the Paragua to Santiago, and sent to Europe by way of Chili. [See Biographical Sources]

These comprise the chief botanical sources of the source of the drug, how far they agree or unite will be seen at a glance, each and all of them, as before obtained, furnish roots of similar properties, and appearance. Though the plant and product will vary according to the circumstances under which it is found, the root among those which differ most (though only with regard to the leaves) is the S. medica, swallow, or not, it is the same species, or the central American species. It is both in the form of that and S. papuana which appear to grow there, I cannot yet determine; but as regards the South American plants, from which our supply of the best root are obtained, I believe they are identical, or at all events, their botanical distinctions so slight, it would be better (rather than prejudice conclusions by longer writing so many synonyms, referring to the same thing.) To unite them under one common name, Stillwell Senna.
Besides these, several Species have a fairly extensive, and commercial area, as those of North America, S. Saracenia Linn., growing in the marshes and swamps of the Southern States, S. pumilus China, or Wild yams of Florida, S. glycyphila, of Sweetland, Species of Australia, S. Saracenia, Bengal, S. glycyphila, Smylie, S. Chen, and some others but as we are not indebted to any of these for the supply of the genuine drug, I have not included it among the number.

Topographical Sources

The local Origin of the several commercial varieties of Saracenia appears to be in much about the South part of California as the Botanical source of the drug, indeed, little known, and it is beyond the point of shipment. A good deal of this we doubt, in the last instance, may be trace to the rejected information having been brought by the different writers on the subject, of the drug being a native to some other countries. It has been conjectured, but knowledge of its original whereabouts, perhaps, little extended beyond their own. The only guide then was the name, in regard to the description of the drug. We are dealing with the same commercial names, in part derived from the name of the part from which it is extracted, and in part from the mode of packing and size of the bundle, irrespective of the country of its growth; thus in the Jamaica market, St. Thomas's and other bountifully for this drug, the several varieties of Saracenia are sorted much after the same fashion. The Brazilian sorts get the name of Lisbon or Lima, the red-bearded variety, of Colombian quassia, collected in the Spanish Main, Red Jamaica, its mere merely kinds, Gouty or Caravaca, learner sort, 'Yerba Crucita,' and the lighter sort 'Hondureno.' These commercial distinctions appear to be pretty generally acknowledged and probably might continue as well or any other name they not open to that objection, namely, of sometimes admitting into the market inferior qualities of the drug, under the name of the better sorts, for which they are very frequently substituted. In addition, it often applies to the different places.

Jamaica Saracenia, as every body knows, does not grow in Jamaica, nor in any other of the West India Islands, but being the port of shipment for Central America, and formerly one of the principal exports for that purpose collected by the various traders to the port and harbors in the Spanish Main, almost every description and quality of the drug found its way into the Jamaica market. The best quality as the so-called Red Jamaica were all of Colombian or Brazilian quassia, with which the central American or Mexican varieties broke in competition. The name no longer has any commercial value. (St. Thomas, one of the Virgin Islands being the principal depot for the finer sorts.)

In the present day, the greater part of the Saracenia imports from Jamaica (which go there to get a name) is the growth of Central America, therefore, to trace it to its source, we must look over to Belize, in the Bay of Honduras, Bluefields Sound, and Gray Town, the port of San Juan de Nicaragua.
Honduras Sarsaparilla (secunda) may be the produce of different parts of Central America, and probably of more than one species. This is the Ordinary Sarsaparilla of Commerce, usually seen in bundles, some two or three feet long, weighing from two to three pounds, some of a lighter clay color, others of a dirty brown, and having a considerable quantity of hay-like filaments, but very few sticks, in comparison to the South American produce, and all men of the Mercantile. With reference to the geographic sources of the Sarsaparilla, shipped from the Bay of Honduras they are derived. Some appear to be collected by the Mahagoni and Pegwood Cattle in the Woods to the South of Campeche, but much more come from the Lakes of Yucatan, and inland Loganos in the province of Tabasco, and the country south of Yucatan, from whence it is brought down the rivers Chondu and Nove 1 to the ports in the Bay of Honduras. But by far larger quantities of Honduras 2 Sarsaparilla, are brought down the River Barrile from the South-west province, and Guatemala, which together with the produce of the Mosquito territory, make up the chief supplies we receive under the above names.

Guatemala Sarsaparilla — This is another source of the former, it is usually not white folded in bunches after the same fashion, though occasionally some picked sorts are made up as Coban, into bundles cut off at both ends, like some of the Old Brazilian Bunches. It is collected on the borders of the Lake of Peten, South-west of Yucatan at Conchian, and in the Woods of Guatemala near Coban and the Valley of Yopuruca. A great deal of this is brought from Coban or Peten down the Barrile by the Indians in their Pirogues (Canoes) to Belize in the Bay of Honduras, from whence it is shipped to Jamaica & Europe. Hence it passed under the name of the former. But Sarsaparilla from the same source, come down the rice grounds and spread to the Pacific Port of San Jose de Guatemala, from whence it is brought by the Panama Steamers, and via the Isthmus, to the ports in the Caribbean Sea. It is now called Guatemala Sarsaparilla.

Mosquito Sarsaparilla — This is sometimes called Honduras and sometimes Nicaragua, but according to the port from which it is shipped, at it comes from the country of its growth by the circuit. That which on the 20th of June, or brought down by the Isthmus from the interior of the country, is carried to Tucune in the Bay of Honduras. But the greater part of the Sarsaparilla, is collected in the interior on the Southern shore of the Mosquito Coast, towards Nicaragua in the Valley of the Woodland, Tumaco, and Cachiri, from whence it is brought down the Bluefields River to Bluefields Sound, on the Shore of the Caribbean Sea, and generally shipped across to Savannah, Bluefields due an immense demand in Sarsaparilla.

Nicaraguan Sarsaparilla — Sometimes called Costa Rica Sarsa (which it may, or may not be). This kind of Sarsaparilla is shipped from Grey Town, the sea port of the San Juan de Nicaragua. But as my information goes to show, it may be derived from more than one
Service. It is brought to San Juan with cochineal and other produce collected at
Lion and Chetumal on the Northern shores of the Lake of Peten-Itza, and South from
the provinces of Costa Rica and Veracruz, but this being a ready communication
to the Pacific Coast of Central America by way of the San Juan and Lake of Nicaragua,
Sarsaparilla by the same route also comes from the Pacific ports of Real de.
Acapulco and San José de Guate mala, of which province it is probably the produce.
The True Costa Rica Sarsaparilla is much drier, more firm, and less nearly than any other
Central American Variety, and is frequently sold as South American Sarsaparilla (see Lima).

Vera Cruz Sarsaparilla — found growing on the eastern slopes of the Mexican
Mountains, and brought to Vera Cruz by the Collectors of Vanilla and cochineal from Misantla, Nazca, Sojapa, and the province of Guazacap. You read, that this kind of Sarsaparilla may always be known by its
folios being attached to the stalk, and frequently forked. Formerly, it might have been,
but it is now folded much in the same way as the Ordinary. Its appearance is a
better, its Amygdalin and somewhat denser colored than the Honduras, but it is
not very common in the Market, although Monards maintain that it was the kind
first brought to Europe. Humboldt states that 5000 quarts are sent annually
exported from Vera Cruz.

Tampico Sarsaparilla — this is another Mexican Variety, very little differing
from the former, and frequently shipped from the same
port. It is collected on the borders of the rivers and lakes running eastward from
the Mexican States, and brought to Tampico and Matamoros, and from there to the
Port of Tampico. Some Vera Cruz or Mexican Sarsaparilla it appears also —
comes from the Pacific port of Maracay, (said to be the product of Lassetras), and
a good deal collected south of Vera Cruz, and the province of Guazacap, from the
Pacific port of Tehuantepec. The falling off in the shipment of Sarsaparilla from Vera
Cruz is said, not to be owing to any scarcity of the drug, though very abundant
but to the silver mines offering more profitable employment, hence the supply are
mostly bullion.

As to the botanical sources of the Central American Sarsaparillas (as far as
at present can be ascertained) they may be said to be derived from the species
S. mexicana, and S. pepysiana. Unless the botanical distinctions are too slight to
separate them.

South American.

Colombian Sarsaparilla — New Granada. The great part of the produce of
New Granada comes from the Magdalena. It
grows in abundance on the banks of the river and its tributary streams, including
the province of Campana, Antioquia, and Caucasia, and is collected at
all the villages, or resting places for canoes, along the banks of the River, at Morales, San Pedro
Venezuela, Tessa Vista, Huisna, Bajagogo, and from the capital Bogota; from whence it
is brought down the Magdalena by the Indians in their piragua (large sailing
canoes) to Monserate. It is then transmitted to the Caribbean ports of—
Carthagena, Savannah and Santa Marta for Shipment to St Thomas... Europe and the United States. The Savannah is of twice Grand_prices in somewhat shorter bundles, and is of a much darker color than the Central American Sort. (especially the product of the Magazines where the soil is in great blocks.) It is also more weighty, less mealy, and has larger suits, with a dark brown or red beard. Like most of the South American Sarsaparillas, it is the product of S. Coffee, poppy, etc.

Guayaquil Sarsaparilla -- This kind is imported into Europe as the produce of Ecuador (a republic of Colombia) but appears to be derived from two sources. East of the Cordilleras it is collected in the province of Guayas on the Zamora and other tributaries of the upper Amazonian from where it is brought to Iquitos and Lloa, and by the Chone Indians in the department of Azuay to Guayaquil. From the North it comes down the river Guayaquil fromquito to which it is brought with tobacco, back and other products from Paita, Popayan, and the country of the upper Magdalena. It is principally shipped by the Pacific steamers plying along the coast of New Granada and Ecuador. The convey it to Panama. Where, by transit, it reaches the ports of the Spanish Main for St. Thomas and Europe.

Venezuela Sarsaparilla -- May be the growth of Miranda, Vargas New Granada or the produce of the Orinoco, and its tributaries by way of Augusto, which see. The so-called Caracas appears to be forwarded to the ports of the Caracas (Porto Cabello and La Guaira) from the Lake of Maracaibo. Other varieties are brought from the interior via Cordova from the Apure, Guayana, and the western branches of the Orinoco, and from Trichele South of the mountains of Moira. The common Caracas occurs in much larger bundles than the Colombian or Brazilian varieties generally, and perhaps is the most valuable of the South American sorts. As regards the name, that forms the criterion of the quality will of course vary with the sources from where it is obtained, and some of the best Sarsaparillas (as will be seen by the following) may be shipped from La Guaira.

Augusto Sarza -- This appears to be one of the chief entrepots for the produce of the Orinoco and its affinities, to which we are indebted principally for the supplies of the better sorts of Sar sarapilla we receive. by way of Venezuela or the Caracas. It is brought to Augusto from Guianas and Mancavaca, on the Southern tributaries of the Orinoco, forming the Caracas, (not collected here.) The beauty is the main route down which the Caracas come from the Rio Negro, the province of which it is chiefly collected by the Indians at all the Villages along the shores. It might properly be termed the Rio Negro Sarsaparilla, but by reason of the Cassiquiare water communication with an insurmountable country by which the Caracas bring down Sarapilla and other drugs from the interior, on their way to the Ocean. It is dark colored, and made up into smaller bundles than the common Caracas, generally known in the country of its growth by the name of the Sarza del Rio Negro.
British Guiana — Sarsaparilla is sometimes shipped from Georgetown (Demerara). It appears to grow in many parts of Guiana on the irrigated lands between the Berbice and Ettechave, on the slopes of the mountains towards Paramaribo, and on the banks of the Parima near Uninvarine from where it is brought to Paramaribo. But the greater part of the Sarsaparilla brought into Guiana and down the Ettechave comes from Caracas where it has been brought by the Pecos who have collected it at the villages along the Warraqua. (A tributary of the Rio Negro). Dr. Handcock speaks of its growing on the elevated lands of the Rio Marron at Uninvarine and Carabanta, (Caracas?). The same character as the preceding, generally shipped to St. Thomas.

Peruvian Sarsaparilla — This variety is imported from Callao and Payta and constitutes the true Lima Sarsa, which should not be confused with the so-called Lima from Costa Rica and other places; but it is not the produce of Callao, Lima or Payta, as no Sarsaparilla grows in the Western district of the Peruvian Andes. It is brought to Lima from the interior by the collectors of Chincha, Vallenar, Balao and other places, chiefly the province of the Alto-Amazon Country east of the Cordillera, brought down the Mayapo from Orinoco and San Paulo to Leones. It appears to be the same kind of Sarsa, and from the same source, as that we shall find under the head of Brazilian, brought down by the Bolitas and Cunes from Morabamba and Tarapoto to the port of Nauta, en route for Para and Maranham. At Lima Sarsaparilla is perhaps it will still be known, for as steam communication with the upper Amazon and its Peruvian tributaries, besides the numerous products thus brought in, and also the Andes, the Río de la Plata, and the Andes, the Río de la Plata, and the Amazon, will go by way of Pará, you read that "the true Lima — sort come round Cape Horn" (Suppose to distinguish it from the Costa Rica). Ship from Ayacucho on the Atlantic side. But it is now carried by Panama by the Pacific Steamer and across the Isthmus of Darien.

Brazilian Sarsaparilla — Formerly called "Lisboa Sarsaparilla," from being first brought to that port from the Portuguese possessions in South America. This is the produce of that immense region known as the Valley of the Amazon, where it is various tributaries, it is brought to the City of Belém on Para. It constitutes one of the largest sources for the supply of the best Sarsaparilla. The chief places at which it is collected, and from whence it finds its way down the Amazon, are — Carangue, and Para, on the Tapajos; Santarem on the Tapajos; Crato and Borba (the winter place for the cunes navigating the Madeira); Ega, on the Tette — Cairas, on the Tapure; and Tarapoto on the Ucayali. Besides which considerable quantities collected in the Alto-Amazonian country, chiefly in the mountainous district of Morabamba and Tarapoto, are brought down by Bolitas, (tapure) and by Cunes to the Peruvian port of Nauta, a navigable point on the right bank of the Amazon. The Indians on the Huallaga also bring it down by means of their canoes, with other things, from Tingo Maria, and the country —
Stretching far west towards Lima, from Chicure and the Pastaza, an affluent of the Huallaga, on whose banks reside Sarapampa, they collect the finest Peruvian Banaba. But the greatest export for Peru and other products collected on the upper tributaries of the Amazon is the "Barra de Rio Negro"; at the mouth of the river, at Manaus, it lies. Here the canoes and other craft, coming from the Rio Negro, Rio Urubamba, and the Mitu-Amazon countries, are drawn to the Mandacaru. Here the merchant and the dealer, and all such boatmen, leave their boats, canoes, canoes, bark, bamboo, rattans, and Sarapampa, for manufactured goods. From the Barra de Rio Negro it was formerly brought down the Amazon to Pará by the "Bacacá" (large square-rigged sailing vessels). But steamers now rapidly telling their place, not only up to this point but in most of the navigable tributaries from Pará to Pará, spreading civilization among the Indians, and terror and alarm among the Monkeys and other inhabitants of the forest.

But Brazilian Sarapampa may also in the growth of this country, for Brazil itself, the half of Bolivia, two thirds of Pará, three fourths of Ecuador, and the greater part of Venezuela is connected with the various affluents of the Amazon, for thousands of miles, by the navigation carried on with Canoes (and now a line of Steamers to meet them) we may receive this and other indigenous products from all or any of these sources, by way of Pará.

Characters—It is a mistake to believe Brazilian Sarapampa is only to be met with in those long cylindrical bundles, as seen figured in books; its occurs in the ordinary banakes, which may be seen piled up in enormous quantities on the "Porto de Peixão" (chief landing place at Pará). The bundles are usually about two feet long, and some fifteen inches in circumference. The sticks are larger, and rather less supplied with fibres, and centers, more or less of a reddish-brown colour, compact in structure, and generally non-meaty. It differs perhaps from the produce of the Magdalena in the bundles being rather larger, darker, and in having fewer fibers, being of a more matured, so that the sticks are often dried in Brazil before they are folded, which deprives it of the smaller size, although when first dragged (by horses) from the soil it is quite as much beardes as the former. It is precisely the same description, as the larger bundles of the Old Red Sarapampa, Rio Negro, derived from this source, but of late years, from Central America, Costa Rica, and the Guayas Coast. J. Product of S. apricola and certainly one of the best Sarapampa. Exported from Pará and San Luis de Maranhão to St Thomas, Lisbon, and Hamburg.

From other Brazilian Ports—Pernambuco and Bahia—Sarapampa is said to grow in abundance in the interior. West towards the province of Goias and the country watered by the tributary streams of the Xucumte, and south towards Minas Geraes from whence it might be hauled down the New Francisco as far as Goias, but have some 70 or 80 miles it appears obstructed by a succession of Rapids and Cataracts, which put a stop to any further navigation being carried on towards the Coast. So cumbersome—
Rio de Janeiro — Notwithstanding the drug might be collected in the Western province of Minas Geraes, the want of water communication with the interior, as in the former instance, prevents its reaching the coast by this route. Coffee and tobacco appear to be the chief commodities that come (via the Forte de Copella) from Minas to Rio. Whatever is brought from the interior of the country comes from the Southern province of Santa Catarina and down the Tietê, whereas it is brought by the Canoes and trade with the products of the Parana, on lower Paraguay and is of the same description and from the same source as shall find mention under that head. — But the greatest part of the Sarsaparilla shipped from Rio Janeiro is in the first place bought here by the numerous vessels and steamers trading between the coast and the ports, Rio being the grandemporium for the indigenous products of the country, collected at the smaller ports along the Brazilian coast, as for Santa de Beira and Santa to Montevideo, and most of which find their goods here for exportation. Valuable quantities are brought by the steamers from Paranaguá on Atlantic part of the province of Parana, and from Santa Catarina, Province of Rio Grande do Sul, the province of Uruguay.

Uruguay — This is a well-known variety of Sarsaparilla, imported as the produce of the Oriental Republic of the Uruguay, and which it appears may be collected on the banks of most of its tributary streams. It is brought to Montevideo, Santa Catarina, and other ports down the Uruguay and Rio Plate, from Braga, San Pedro and Belen on the Uruguay, and from Merceded on the Rio Negro another on whose banks it grows in such abundance, that in many places, the roots falling from the banks into the stream, both clog both the water and at the same time impart to it the medicinal properties of the drug. It seems to be the product of the same plant found growing wild on the wooded banks of the Parama and Paraguay. The root are of a dark reddish brown and the bundles generally about the same size and form as the other Brazilian Variety exported from Rio, to which, from the Lo Platense ports it is generally forwarded.

Mercedes, a new well-known at the Harrowgate, for invalids in the part of the world who flock to the banks of the Rio Negro in summer to drink of the natural cold infusion of the root, and which is said to relieve them of many forms of chronic disease, with which I cannot say; though I have no reason to doubt the thesis. The tradition of the Indian, who took his Antiperistalsis in the bowl, into which the Cucumber tree had fallen, and so rid of the fever.
Paraguay Sarsaparilla — This is the product of the plant shown in the figures, and is common in Paraguay, that it offers one of the most fertile sources, not only for the finest qualities, but likewise the largest supplies of the drug, and for some friends of mine in that country hope yet to turn to more commercial advantage. It grows in abundance on the upper Parana, and on the richly wooded banks of the Paraguay, Pilcomay, Rio Verdejo, and other tributary streams, where it may be had at the cost and trouble of collecting and drying it. But notwithstanding it is considered one of the most choice kinds of Sarsaparilla in South America, the staple commodity of this country, hides, leather, and last, the not least, the Yerba or Paraguay tea, which renders the province the China of this part of the world, from such an extensive branch of commerce, that few care or trouble themselves about the collection of drugs. The Indians approach their markets furnished from these sources, have been chiefly collected by the Indians of the Rio Verdejo (Red River), whence it down in their canoes to Pilcomay and Corrientes, with other indigenous products. May carry on a trade with those places. From Corrientes, the Paraguayan Indians carry it to Santa Fé, on the right banks of the Parana, the port of transit for Chile, and Argentina, for the Paraguayan produce carried to Rosario, Corrientes, or across the Parana to Santiago, and Valparaiso, from which port it is occasionally shipped. The mode of collecting it is by first loosening the surrounding soil, then taking off the thickest part of the root from the stem, and facing a hook in the wood, dragging them out with the runners attached to them. It is then hung to dry (at their slips of deep) to dry in the sun, in Brazil it is said to be dried over wood fires, cut into convenient lengths, and tied up in bundles, or folded in the ordinary handkerchief, about the same size and form as a bundle of Lima Sarsa; these are made up into large round bales, though it is sometimes mixed with powdered in hides (the same in the State) which are stained with the color of the root having been put on last. The kind of the Condor Vanilla from a cinnamon red, or reddish brown, sticks of a large size — very compact, and not flaky when broken. Grown in a dark red Alluvium.

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These, these are some of the chief topographical sources of this drug, though they are far from complete. Perhaps by and by, as industrial ingenuity and commercial enterprise by rail and steam, penetrate the dense forest of the interior, and bring us in closer proximity with other habitations of this plant, we shall be able to say more about its, but till then, to give the precise local history or origin of each particular kind, or to trace the delivinations of a tale of Santa, from the banks of its native streams to the ocean, seems next to an impossibility. In many instances we may get at its true sources, in others we find, we have only traced it to some remote or great curative or centre of navigation. And which this and other native products, are brought down by the Canoes from the interior; but we can trace through what far-off forests these mighty rivers and their affluents flow.

So far then, Gentlemen, have I endeavoured to follow the drug to trace its beyond this, imagination must carry us back to the borders of some gigantic forest in the interior of Brazil or Peru, where there, Climbers grow in their greatest luxuriance, hanging from bough to bough, and in festoons from the Troncoes or Tree, here we might speculatize on a bundle of Sarsaparilla, sent to us hundreds of miles down those distant streams, and then 9,000 more over the sea. While at the same time we should learn a little more about the Fortune, some of our drugs best, to say nothing of the dangers incurred in collecting them, amidst the haunts of the Jaguar, the Bear, and the Pachnoda. Still here you find the poor Indian collecting his products from the forest, and preparing for his long journey, and when, when he has got his little freight together, set about building the bark which is to convey it, a frail one, but soon constructed, he cuts down the trunk of a tree, the trunk, the Nest, with bamboo and reeds, he lays down the deck, and builds the hold, in this fragile craft, he places the fruit of his labours, his Beak, Vanilla, Cinnamon, Sarsaparilla, and a few bags of chocolate beans. Upon these he seats his wife, and with his dog by his side, takes the single oar, by which he is to guide the little craft, so many weary miles, and fearlessly - commits his cargo, his hopes, and his beloved to the rapid current, the danger of the breakers, and the benevolence of his Gods.