

THE CHOCOLATE- PLANT AND ITS PRODUCTS

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the chocolate-plant and its products by Various

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VARIOUS

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(THEOBROMA CACAO)

AND

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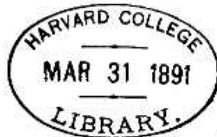
THE FRUITING-STEM OF A CHOCOLATE-PLANT, THE FLOWERS, YOUNG FRUIT,
AND REFINED FOD ALL SPRINGING FROM THE OLDER WOOD.

DORCHESTER, MASS.:
WALTER BAKER AND COMPANY.
1891.

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INTRODUCTORY.

FOUR years ago, a convenient handbook on the production and use of various preparations of the chocolate plant was published by our firm. The present work is designed to give, with considerably more detail, some of the interesting facts relative to the early history and cultivation of the chocolate tree, as well as a fuller account of its botany and the chemistry of its products. Since this *brochure* will doubtless fall into the hands of some who do not have access to the earlier work, we have used with freedom some of the material employed in that; but we hope that these necessary repetitions will increase instead of impair the value of the pages now before the reader.

We trust that this second treatise may be acceptable to our many friends who gave so warm a welcome to the first.

WALTER BAKER AND COMPANY.

DORCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS,
1891.

THE CHOCOLATE-PLANT.

I.

OUTLINE OF THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE CHOCOLATE-PLANT.

AT the discovery of America, the natives of the narrower portion of the continent bordering on the Caribbean Sea, were found in possession of two luxuries which have been everywhere recognized as worthy of extensive cultivation; namely, tobacco and chocolate. The former of these has made its way into climates totally unlike that of its early home; the other of these plants, since it cannot bear the low temperature occasionally experienced in our subtropics, is more restricted in its range. The chocolate-plant is confined to the warmer regions of the globe, where it finds the congenial climatic conditions which it enjoyed and still enjoys in its earliest home in America.

The first references to the chocolate-plant and its products are found in the accounts of the explorers and conquerors who followed Columbus. These first descriptions of this singular tree, of its fruits and seeds, of its uses and the methods of cultivation, are remarkably accurate in all essential particulars.

One of the earliest, if not indeed the very earliest, delineations of the chocolate-tree is in a rare volume by Bontekoe. The engraving, which is here reproduced with fidelity, represents the chocolate-tree with its comparatively large fruits or pods borne on