

SONNET—BAUGMAREE¹

A sea of foliage girds our garden round,
But not a sea of dull unvaried green,
Sharp contrasts of all colours here are seen;
The light-green graceful tamarinds² abound
5 Amid the mangoe³ clumps of green profound,
And palms arise, like pillars gray, between;
And o'er the quiet pools the seemuls⁴ lean,
Red,—red, and startling like a trumpet's sound.
But nothing can be lovelier than the ranges
10 Of bamboos to the eastward, when the moon
Looks through their gaps, and the white lotus⁵ changes
Into a cup of silver. One might swoon
Drunken with beauty then, or gaze and gaze
On a primeval Eden, in amaze.

¹ Baumaree is the name of the Dutt family's garden house on the outskirts of Calcutta (Kolkata).

² The tamarind (imli) is a large tree that also is known as the Indian date tree or the Indian date palm.

³ The mango tree (aam) is, of course, famous for its fruit.

⁴ The seemul (semul, simal) is the largest Indian tree. Also known as the silk cotton tree, it has beautiful red flowers.

⁵ The lotus, a large water-lily, is a sacred flower in Hinduism.