

roads, and dotted with white-roofed houses, churches, and school-houses.

The principal crops raised are potatoes, tomatoes, and onions, for the New York market. These are of the very best quality, but they are raised in comparatively small quantity, owing partly to the scarcity of labor, and partly to the patchy distribution of fertile soil and the want of a sufficient supply of manure. Arrowroot—the starch of *Maranta arundinacea*—was at one time a principal article of export; but the quantity produced has been steadily decreasing of late years. What is made is certainly excellent, and fetches a much higher price than the West Indian arrowroot, which is driving it out of the market. The starch is contained in a long jointed tuber, or rather rhizome or under-ground stem, which springs from the crown of the root of the *Maranta*. This, when it is ripe, is a foot or so in length, slightly flattened, and about an inch in diameter. When fresh, it is covered with a brownish skin; but this separates in drying from the tuber, which is white and semi-transparent, and little else than a mass of starch. Fragments of the rhizome, or small shoots which are sent off along with the rhizomes, are planted about the month of May, and they send up a stem three feet high, with handsome iris-like leaves. In about ten months each plant yields ten or twelve, sometimes as many as eighteen or twenty, tubers. These are partially dried and the skin removed, and then, after being carefully washed, they are ground in a mill worked by horses or oxen, into a coarse pulp. The pulp is passed, with an abundance of cold water, through sieves gradually diminishing in mesh, until the starch passes through free from fibre or other impurity. The greater part of the water is then poured off, as much of the remainder as possible forced out by a hand-press, and the cake of starch broken up and dried in shallow wooden trays exposed to a current of air, when it falls into the well-known snowy, glistening powder. The best arrowroot costs at