

The Kou

Artist Name: Isabella Sinclair (1840-1890)

Size: 13 X 9.5

Frame Size: 0 X 0

Category: Print

Medium: Lithograph

Product type: OPEN

Price: \$475.00

Description

Description not available.



KOU

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Dioscorea batatas, Linn.

The Kou is strictly a lowland tree, sometimes indeed to flourish best close to the seacoast. It does not attain any great size— seldom being over thirty feet in height, with a short trunk, rarely exceeding two feet in diameter at the base.

The Kou is now rare, but it was once a favourite and important article of food, and only now it grows and runs of growth, but it was the tree from which the natives made most of their breadfruit and sweet potato flours. The wood is soft and easily wrought, yet very durable and of a most beautifully variegated brown colour resembling a fine pearl. In spring many clusters of flowers, of a bright orange colour appear at the end of the branches, generally set amid the light green leaves. The flowers are followed by hard black nuts containing an edible kernel.

Fifty or sixty years ago the Kou was extensively planted, but even then it never grew as a forest tree, and was generally burnt and burnt by the natives. This has led some to suppose that it was introduced in a recent period, and the supposition is somewhat strengthened by the fact that the name Kou is found in one or two islands south of the equator. This belief, however, is founded upon such slender data, that it is much more probable the Kou is truly indigenous, but from some cause or other, has been gradually disappearing, until, at the present day, it is almost extinct.



