

CANES, *rattan*, are a smaller sort brought from China, Japan, and Sumatra, very tough; which being split, are used for making of cane chairs. They are the produce of a reed called *rattang Malabarica minor*, or lesser rattan. The specific name is rotang, whence rattan, and in the Malayan language signifies a staff or walking stick. These when dry, being struck against each other, will give fire, and are used accordingly in some places in lieu of flint and steel. Being twisted together they make cordage of them. The Chinese and Japanese vessels are said to have their cables made of them, which are less liable to rot in the water than hemp. Phil. Trans. N<sup>o</sup> 244, p. 326, and N<sup>o</sup> 267, p. 717. See CALAMUS.

The canes, or canas, in the jurisdiction of Guayaquil in South America, are remarkable for both their length and thickness, and the water contained in their tubes. Their usual length is between 6 and 8 toises; and the largest do not exceed 6 inches in diameter. The wood or side of the tube is about 6 lines in diameter; so that when the cane is opened, it forms a board near  $1\frac{1}{2}$  foot in breadth; and, therefore, it will not appear strange that houses should be constructed of such materials. From the time of their first appearance, till they attain their full perfection, when they are either cut down, or of themselves begin to dry, most of their tubes contain a quantity of water, with this remarkable difference, that at full moon they are entirely, or very nearly, full, and with the decrease of the moon, the water ebbs, till at the conjunction little or none is to be found. During its decrease, the water appears turbid; but about the time of full moon, it is clear as crystal. The water is found to be an excellent preservative against the ill consequence of any bruises; at least it is drunk by all who come from the mountains, where such accidents are unavoidable. The canes, being cut, are left to dry, or, as they say, to be cured; whence they acquire such a degree of strength, that they serve for rafters, beams, floorings, or even masts for balzas. Ships which load with cocoa are also cased with them, to preserve the timber from the great heat of that fruit. They are also used as poles for litters, and in a variety of other ways. Juan and