

The fig Capuchin

[Menu](#)

ROSCOFF ITS GIANT TREE AND VEGETATION THIS PART LOWER BRITAIN

by Felix SAHUT

Knight of the Order of Isabella
the Catholic Italy, etc.,
Corresponding to the Société
Nationale d'Agriculture de
France

President of the Horticultural
Society of Natural History and
the Hérault;

Honorary member of the
Society of Horticulture and
Viticulture Basses-Pyrenees.
etc., etc. ;

Member of the International
Committee of the Alpine
Botanical Garden "the Linnaea"
Corresponding member of the
Academy, Royal Georgofili
Florence

Companies and Royal
Horticultural Tuscany, National
Science

natural and mathematical
Cherbourg, physical sciences,
natural and climatic conditions
of Algeria, Scientific Studies
Aude, Study of Natural
Sciences Beziers, etc.. etc. ;
and many companies of
agriculture, horticulture,
viticulture and natural history of
France and other countries.



[Click on photos to enlarge](#)

MONTPELLIER MIDI PRINT
CENTRAL

HAMELIN BROTHERS

1,891



For a long time, we wanted to explore Brittany and its curious megalithic monuments. We wanted to browse the various parts of the old Armorica so well sung by Brizeux, with sublime accents he felt his gallant yard and Christian Breton. We wanted to follow step by step our poet, by browsing this country that has so well described, with its granite boulders and ancient oaks, dolmens, menhirs and his ancient manors and pride of their legendary rugged inhabitants .

We also wanted to look closely at the amazing vegetation that characterizes this beautiful but so hard nature, it is influenced by a climate that differs in many respects from that of our southern regions.

Also, having welcomed the passage Sainte-Anne d'Auray and visited the famous Carnac alignments, after contemplating the top of the mound or barrow of Mont Saint-Michel Bay and the peninsula of Quiberon, and then admired so picturesque banks of the Blavet and Scorff we arrived in Quimper, whose garden station is certainly the most beautiful and best kept among those of all our stations French railways. Then, through forests of oaks and beeches which are populated by many cloudy Chestnut, or

moors all gilded by the flowers of broom, we walked a region still very rugged along remote coastlines irregularly cut this part of Brittany.

And we arrived at Brest, where we find a guide as instructed in qu'obligeant our good friend Mr. Blanchard. After visiting with him in detail the sights of the famous Botanical Garden Plant of the Navy, and the main crops surrounding communities, bous going near the end of the peninsula Armorican note with astonishment the existence to Brescanvel, real Eucalyptus forests and admire, Penandreff, the largest Chilean Araucaria (*Araucaria imbricata* Ruiz et Pav.) that exist in France.

Exotic vegetation of the gardens of Lower Brittany is really surprising. One is astonished, indeed, beyond all expression, to meet a latitude as northern, a large number of plants that require cautious in France shelter efficient coastal valleys of Provence or Roussillon best exposed. Our astonishment increased at every step and we hope, if God willing, some day try to describe the impressions we felt enjoying all the wonders plants distributed in many localities in this region so exceptionally privileged.

For now, we will only describe the vegetation of a small corner of Lower Brittany, that is to say, the part between Roscoff and Morlaix, and report some of the features that we have The most striking. This vegetation Indeed, we caused very pleasant surprise, given the situation of the coastline of the Sea Channel, in which we observe as interesting facts.

The coasts of Britain, and especially those of Finistère, are composed of a series of caps often acute or creeks generally deep, whose inputs are strewn with pitfalls which make the surrounding dangerous for navigation. Armorican peninsula particularly this character to a high degree. It could be compared as conformation perimeter, a fig leaf whose incoming sinus formed by irregular teeth, here are equally strong berries before sinking into the land, and whose edges are jagged as a deeply lace.

Rivers are hardly numerous enough that small streams few meters wide, most are then, almost suddenly, the vast proportions of a river, and often a very large river. Valleys in which their calm waters make their way widen Indeed, increasingly, as soon as their bottom descends below the level of the sea invades. And as the depth of the bay thus formed is often quite large, it has been established on the river ports as they are more sheltered off shore, and are the highest ranges of hills that form the extension Valley.

Thus the great harbor of Brest is nothing else than a vast estuary, or rather the meeting of estuaries quite a number of rivers which are the main Elorn the Penfeld the Daoulas the Faou and Alder. Gully Brest serves as their mouthpiece common to allow their water to throw together in the ocean. It is on the Penfeld, whose shores are steep enough, that was established military port, and yet just a few kilometers away, the river is simply a stream meandering down in the vicinity of Gouesnou. It is even Jarlot and Queffleut two rivers meet in Morlaix and then formed under the name of Dossen, a fairly large estuary on the edges which is built Saint-Pol-de-Léon, and s extends to Roscoff, opposite the island of Batz.

Top of the giant double-decker bridge that allows the railroad to cross the valley in which is built in a picturesque small town of Morlaix, it dominates the tallest buildings, and boasts a panorama really remarkable. The side of the South, they are staggered terraces, arranged, terraced gardens bunk, where Laurier d'Apollon (*Laurus nobilis* L.), Japanese privet (*Ligustrum japonicum* Thumbg.), Laurier tin (*Viburnum tinus* L.) and most of our trees thrive and resist southern perfectly. Holes in walls and holes of the rocks, Red Valerian (*Centranthus ruber* DC) balance in the empty its beautiful tufts of dark pink flowers, just as in our South. The opposite side, the view over the valley Dossen, which widens more and lost away in the mists of the horizon, coinciding with the high seas off the coast of England.

Finally, both sides are vast plains, almost entirely devoted to crops, vegetables, whose products, esteemed, are exported to England, or contribute to the supply of Paris and many other cities of the continent. They grow mostly Artichokes, Asparagus of, the beets, the carrots, the Curled, of Cauliflower Cauliflower and broccoli, turnips, of onions, of Parsnips, Leeks, Apples potatoes, escarole, etc. . etc.. The production of these vegetable plants is considerable, and this is one of the main agricultural industries of

the country. The feed Aspergeries also a cannery. Artichokes produce here all winter, just as in Hyères or Perpignan. As for strawberries, culture, once very famous, decreased importance since it expanded considerably on the slopes of Plougastel, near Brest.

Farmers Roscovites never need watering, because the rains are extremely common throughout the Lower Brittany. They are also handy fertilizer reaping the economic seaweed or kelp that high tide deposited on the coast. These algae, mixed with sea sand and kept so for some time, produce, say, a highly esteemed manure.

Most pieces of land are lined with gorse sailors who serve as their fence and thrive here much better than Hawthorn: In sandier are grown potatoes, and the more consistent are reserved for onions. Of all vegetables, are those whose culture is most prevalent in the country. Onion variety that preference is given bulb produces a flat, pale yellow, and (it keeps a long time without pushing).

To give an idea of the importance of the cultivation of these plants, simply quote a fact that we have witnessed in the docks browsing the small port of Roscoff. At the time of our visit (September 18, 1890), five English schooners loaded at the same time large quantities of potatoes and onions, a multitude of carts brought them under the hoist. When their cargo, entirely and became complete, these ships cross the Channel to supply the markets of Newcastle, Portsmouth and other ports on the English coast, as well as the islands of Jersey and Guernsey. It is almost the same every day and every year at this time. At other times, instead of onions and potatoes, there are other kinds of vegetables are also exported, but on a smaller scale. We do not doubt the huge amount of fresh produce that are needed to supply such a traffic. "It's millions, says Tanguay (*In the journal Ocean, No. 5 June 1876*), which amounted to Roscoff business conducted by the sale of vegetables."

Finally, the livestock industry of the horse is also flourishing. in this country. The day of our visit to Saint-Pol-de-Léon, there was what is called in the country the procession of horses. Many winning stallions, to the number of about 200, marched through the streets of the city, led by strong guy dressed in their finest costumes Breton and harmonious sounds of a local band. The procession arrived and on the main square, which had been arranged for the occasion. Always held in these fiery steeds hands crossed the arena quickly one after the other. Some had their chest studded with medals they had obtained in various competitions. Then, ranking in line of battle, they came to receive the applause of the large crowd that had attracted great celebration of all the surrounding countries, the rewards did not disdain to hand themselves the most beautiful ladies of the country . In addition to the medals, were also waves of ribbons attached delicate hands gracefully on one side of the flange. This scene was very interesting Breton manners to look for a Southerner, who had not yet had the opportunity to see up close the beautiful and energetic population showing here on a holiday and dressed in her finest clothes. The show was not lacking in local color, he was very curious to observe and worthy to be appreciated at its full value.

Among the plants that inhabit the remarkable gardens Roscoff (Finistère), should be mentioned in the first line a large fig tree (*Le Figuier, Fyesen Breton, according to the dictionary of PG Rostrenen, is native to the coast of Britain and then carries the name of Fyesen-Gouez, that is to say wild fig*) that all foreigners are going to see, because he actually enjoys great fame, and whose proportions exceptional merit reported.

During a trip to Britain conducted in September 1890, we had the curiosity to go to Roscoff purposely to see this fig tree and measure the exact dimensions. This tree is close to the train station, in the enclosure of the former [Capuchin monastery](#) , and you can visit a small fee to the keeper of the enclosure. It is easy to get there by heading to the station of Roscoff and taking the path to the right, just before you get to it ..

The size of the trunk is not huge, since barely 2 meters 40 in circumference. But this trunk, rising vertically first, soon bifurcates into two main branches. The largest of these branches grows by lying on

the side of the east, over a wall and a length of more than five meters and it emits, on the whole length of many powerful roots down to the floor, sneaking through the stones of the wall, which greatly increasing the strength of this part of the tree. The other main branch extends from the opposite side of a length of 6 meters, but the development of the tree is much less significant here because it is hampered by the vicinity of the house. Many secondary branches begin on these two main branches to extend in all directions, at least where they found a space and they are not stopped by construction.

The perimeter of the mass is certainly considerable. We indicated as 160 meters, which we thought was a bit exaggerated, but we were unable to verify due to time needed to accurately measure. Branches often circumvented and whose bark is covered with moss and lichens cover three courses and extend as seen in all directions, thus constituting a powerful tree structure. They would drag on the ground, collapsed under their own weight, if we had had the idea of using support columns 48 of 79 granite and other iron or wood. These columns were 2 m to 2m, height 50. They are aligned in several rows and form, between their straight lines, walkways fully covered by abundant foliage in the shade where visitors circulate easily. The whole consists of a huge hall so green, certainly unique, the cover is so thick that it intercepts absolutely, sunlight. The branches bend the ends to the ground As the branches grow longer. They remain rampant in the state, if new structures supported by other columns had come to support as and when the thing was necessary by lifting and expanding all the covered area.

It has been often tried, without much success, to represent this giant plant, either by drawing or by photography. The Journal horticulture (1879, page 273) also gave a figure of little likeness. It is, indeed, difficult to reproduce exactly, because this tree has successively invaded neighboring structures passing over those who were not too high and who necessarily masked in part. The design that we give here has been done with care from a photograph, in our opinion the best we could find. Though not necessarily give a very incomplete idea of what is really the tree, which he reproduced a small part of the mighty mass, it nevertheless shows one of the paths formed by the columns that support the branches. This certainly is not the least curious fact that this plant has extraordinary confession of its many visitors, and the attached figure indicates with great accuracy.

Though really gigantic proportions by the width of its vast size, the fig tree rarely exceeds 8-10 meters in total height. It is very old, since it assigns in the country 256 years of existence (1634), while still remaining extremely strong. Each year the branches provide innumerable young shoots developed enough, most measure 50 to 75 inches and even 1 meter in length. These branches are quite large, larger even than most of our fig du Midi. The tree continues to grow and expand more. It is therefore relatively young, there is no indication from him any apparent breach of this dilapidated old who announces in a tree and is usually the precursor to decay and death.

Large enough fruits are large, elongated, greenish and supported by a long peduncle. They belong to the variety common in Britain and is referred to as white fig, it is also cultivated in Argenteuil. Herbaceous flavor and slightly sweet fruit of these, we did find detestable in comparison to our excellent figs du Midi, but rather they are estimated in the Breton countryside where there is little taste spoiled in that report.

The garden is where this tree is no shelter. It is located in a plain full discovery and winds from the north, northeast, east and south, arrive without any obstacle. The north-west lies the manor building also low, and the west side only great elms form a kind of curtain, but can be a very effective shelter.

We show that with good reason Figuier as one of the main attractions of Roscoff and foreigners never fail to admire in amazement.

MEA Carrière, who had visited him in 1876, he **said, not without reason (*Journal horticultural, 1879, page 372*), that the tree "could be considered as another wonder of the world."** This is probably the strongest sample of its kind that exists in Europe and probably in the world. It is a fact that leaves far behind him as proportions, the greatest subjects of the same nature as we know.

The fig tree was destroyed in 1987 ... ??? - No comment!

Large fig trees are also not uncommon in Lower Brittany. We often meet there, and every time, not without surprise, that already reached larger proportions and even much higher than their peers that can be seen everywhere, in the south of France, Spain and Italy . They generally have the character of their particular show no mutilation in their structure, indicating that they have never had to suffer from cold winters, even the most rigorous in the region where they live.

We have outlined briefly the main characteristics of agriculture Roscoff. It. we have to point out some of the many exotic plant species that inhabit the gardens of this region by giving a stamp essentially Southern.

Without leaving Roscoff, we could admire a plant that we felt just as interesting as the Capuchin convent of fig. It is a broad-leaved myrtle (*Myrtus communis* L.) Palisse any one side of the granite façade of a Gothic house dating from 1582. It grows to a height of about 6 meters and almost as wide. The mass of its branches, we kept pruned, advanced to a depth of about 50 centimeters. Strain, which appears to have nearly 2 meters in circumference, suppose a respectable age for shrub which this development, as we know, is slow even in the south. His plantation is very old and perhaps contemporary with the construction of the house which is backed by the myrtle. In all cases, we would not be surprised that this plant could be assigned to several centuries. The house in question overlooks the street and is located not far from the laboratory experimental zoology and almost opposite the church of Notre-Dame-de Croaz Batz, whose beautiful steeple, dome and architecture so curious, date of 1550, that is to say almost the same time.

In the yard of the same house, huge clumps of Magellan Fuchsia (*Fuchsia coccinea* Ait.), Are covered with thousands of red flowers and drooping gracefully produce the most charming effect. The Mexican and Peruvian species of this kind if ornamental, and are also widely represented in all gardens in the country and they have always lush vegetation and an abundance of flowers which we have no idea. The Fuchsia elsewhere have been for us one of the most pleasant surprises plant we have earned our trip in Lower Brittany. As we have seen in Montpellier, as well as the rest elsewhere in France, this shrub always graceful by its harbor and beautiful flowers but reduced to relatively tiny proportions, we could contemplate with admiration here in all the gardens Britain in seeing acquire almost the proportions of a tree. Nothing is comparable, in fact, as elegant plant a large Fuchsia isolated high 3 to 4 meters and charge a huge amount of these charming flowers and hanging globular, whose stamens fall into a sort of crest always brightly colored and are borne on branches curving gracefully on each side. It was profusely that we met everywhere, and it is with good reason that, in the ornamentation of gardens in this country, it also draws a great advantage of this beautiful shrub that we could never get tired of admiring .

It was almost even *Escallonia macrantha* we so hard to keep alive in Montpellier and almost all the rest of France, where they are also still small. There are huge clumps of 3 to 4 meters high, a force without equal, who never suffer from cold and seem to grow like a weed.

The Veronicas tree (*Veronica speciosa* R. Cunn.) Which often freezes in Montpellier and who does not also acquire large, become Brittany huge clumps of more than 3 meters high as diameter. One can even say that this plant, native to New Zealand, tends to become spontaneous here, because it reproduces itself in all the gardens and onto the walls. It is absolutely beautiful even in leaf *Spirea Sorbier* (*Spica sorbifolia* L.) and the *Mesembrianthemum edule*, whose twigs fleshy leaves and large flowers lining so the rocks of Monte Carlo and sheltered parts of coast of Provence. At Saint-Pol de Léon, as well Roscoff, we see that the latter species is native Cape invade the walls, associated with several kinds of ferns, the Veronicas and *Spirea*. These various plants had to fix it themselves, because it does not seem likely that they planted there on purpose.

Huge tufts Lin key New Zealand (*Phormium tenax* Forst.), Of Arbutus, Laurier-tin of *Gynerium*, Laurier frank, Charcoal Japan, *Cistus ladanifère*, Buis Mahon (the privet Japan, China *Pittosporum* (*Pittosporum tobira* Ait)., and many other plants originating from hot countries, are prevalent everywhere in profusion and give the whole an eminently southern vegetation. Especially the various woody species *Polygala* Cape purple or crimson flowers; *Mélianthe* the pyramidal (*Melanthus major* L.). lovely foliage plant highly ornamental, and known under the name of Burnet Africa and is also a native of the Cape, the *budleia globosa* Lam., beautiful shrub of the Andes, to orange flower heads; white flowers *Veronica* (*Veronica traversii*), etc.. etc..

The *Solanum jasminoides* lining that adorns the walls of her pretty white flowers. There are also around strong feet *Agave americana*, *Dracaena indivisa* (the. *Magnolia grandiflora*, *Cedrus Deodara*, etc.. Etc.. Zonal *Pelargonium* The palissés are on a high not exceeding 3 meters and often never appear we almost never have been achieved by the cold.

Not only Laurier franc or Apollo (*Laurus nobilis* L.) is very common in gardens, where he acquired large proportions, but in some places it is even grown in tétarts for the operation of its leaves.

In a garden close to the magnificent cathedral of Saint-Pol-de-Léon, we noticed almost all the plants we have listed and more, very large specimens of *Araucaria imbricata* and *Cryptomeria japonica*.

Then not far away and a short walk from the chapel of Creizker, whose bell tower of 77 meters and cut-to-date is an architectural delight, we find on the front of the Hotel de France a huge base of a shrub of Chile commonly known as *Verbena* - Lemongrass or Limonette (*Lippia citriodora* Kunth.), which is perhaps the largest sample of species often exist in France. It is trellised over 4 meters 50 in height and almost as wide, is maintained in these proportions yet considerable annually removing branches that deviate in any direction. At the time of our visit, this tree was completely covered with flowers. We know it can never grow in Montpellier, where the wood freezes almost every year, while we are talking about does not seem to have suffered from cold, at least for a long time.

Finally we should not forget also a huge base of this plant native to the Canary Islands improperly called *Matricaria* and is known under the common name of Comtesse de Chambord (*Chrysanthemum frutescens* L.) and is located in the interior Station of Roscoff, behind Ridging. It was the time of our visit (September 1890), a huge clump of 5 meters in diameter, all covered with a myriad of white flowers main branches were supported by a frame arranged with much (care for their household fragility. This plant is contemporary, it seems, the construction of the station and had at that time, I was assured there be seven years of existence. That's a lot for a plant of this species that keeps, never long in Montpellier Gardens, where she also freezes quite often.

Certainly too short visit we made in the area also very circumscribed Morlaix, Saint-Pol de Léon and Roscoff, do not let us have time to make detailed observations. We report here the limited circumstances very curious that we have the hardest hit.

They are sufficient, we think, to show the conditions that characterize the climate of this small corner of Lower Brittany, who so keenly interested and which is also worth a visit for so many reasons.

Careful examination of the vegetation in Saint-Pol de Léon and Roscoff, that is to say, in two localities are very similar, since they are spaced only 5 or 6 miles, tells us that the winters n ' There are never very cold and the minima never go down much below - 6 °. By cons summers are not hot, and the number of days during which the temperature rises to 30 ° should be much reduced and be a real exception. We see the contrary in Montpellier this high temperature is quite common, as is observed 57 times during the summer of 1890.

Meteorological observations made with great care the garden plants Montpellier (*See Summary of observations in the Annals of the Horticultural Society and History Hérault, 1891, page 90 et seq.*) By M .

Pierre Roudier, we show that there is indeed observed maxima above 30 ° C for 17 days in June, 18 in July, 17 August and 5 in September of the same year in 1890 and is considered rightly as yet forming part of a series of relatively cold year. The summer of 1891 promises to be to continue the series.

Another characteristic feature of the climate of this country and we realize that the study of vegetation is that the rains are frequent and that, throughout the summer, the atmosphere is quite strongly saturated moisture.

As can be seen, the climate of this part of Lower Brittany is far less extreme than in the rest of France, the difference between winter and summer only varying in proportions much lower. So we did we notice that people, especially those in the countryside, not much change the nature of their clothes are almost the same in every season. We observe up to 180 and even 200 days of rain a year and yet we have witnessed at the time of our visit it was claimed loudly. Judge a little, it had not rained for 8 days and Saracens shatter easily when they are harvested by dry weather were ready to cut. But the wishes of the farming population were not slow to be fulfilled, and then we could see these brave and hardy Britons get to pick their Buckwheat, despite rain increased, and they all seemed very happy to feel the rain fall on their back since and allows them to save their crops.

It makes you wonder why the winters in St. Pol de Léon and Roscoff are far less rigorous than most places in the south of France. Yet Roscoff is located near the 49th parallel, and thus 5 degrees further north than Montpellier. More latitude of Roscoff is almost the same as those of Alençon, Chartres, Melun, Nancy, Strasbourg, etc, etc, where Figuiers and most of the plants we have mentioned about freeze every year. By cons, in Seine-et-Marne, Lorraine and Alsace, often Vine ripened the grapes very well, while in Lower Brittany they never reach maturity.

It is therefore necessary to Roscoff, as in most of the department of Finistère, the winters are mild enough that Figuiers, as well as plants very cautious that we have listed, do not freeze. One can reasonably infer that there is even warmer than in most communities of the South and South-West of France, where Figuiers and most of these plants suffer more or less almost every winter.

However, this mild climate during the winter season is not the result of any natural shelter. Roscoff is located along Saint-Pol de Léon, on the edge of the sea of the English Channel, across England and fully exposed. No significant soil protrusion prevents cold winds from the North, North-East and East to ravage the vast bare plain which extends on both sides of this part of the district of Morlaix. If the winters are not cold in summer against Roscoff and the surrounding area are much warmer than other places in the interior under the same latitude. Then as we have seen, the atmosphere is, in general, much more saturated with moisture. Also most of the fruit in this part of Lower Brittany, they are very sweet and much less fragrant than anywhere else in France, and are much less especially in our Mediterranean region.

Thus we see that there is any special climatic conditions need merely note for now, because it would take too long to develop here. It will be useful to carefully study and a more comprehensive way in dealing with the vegetation of this so interesting and curious region. They explain the presence, in the gardens of this country so privileged in this respect, a lot of plants that resist chilly almost completely cold, Quimper, Brest, Morlaix, Roscoff, etc., so that these same plants suffer more or less and are sometimes completely frozen by winters of many places in the south of France.

Whatever has been said, and despite all the objections that could make this idea, we continue to believe that the great equatorial current, the Gulf Stream, the climate has on the coast of Brittany a major influence, contributing at the same time to make it less cold in winter and cooler in summer. We tried elsewhere (*Les Eucalyptus, geographical area of their indigeneity and their culture. History of their discovery, description of their properties, and practical guide to their culture, 1 vol. Gr. 8vo, 212 pages grapes with figures and a map of Tasmania, 1888. Coulet, bookseller publisher, Montpellier. See especially pages 176-182.*) to explain the reasons that seem more than sufficient to demonstrate this fact with evidence.

We will not repeat here, except to develop again in the work we prepare the general climatology of all Britain, characterized by vegetation of each of its parts. We then help fine work of Mr. Borius climate Brest (*A. Borius. - The Climate of Brest, its relationship with health status -1 vol. Eighth-in, 104 pages with figures (extract of Bulletin of the Academic Society of Brest., 1877, Brest, in Lefournier)*), we often have the opportunity to consult with profit.

It follows from the very incomplete picture we just try to outline that the vegetation of this part of the peninsula Armorican not without analogy with the shores of Lake Maggiore and the Borromean Islands. We have pointed out, a few years ago (*Felix Sahut. - Lake Maggiore and the Borromean Islands, climate characterized by their vegetation. Brochure in-8o, 68 page, 1883 - See also Journal 1883, page 92.*) The main characters of the latter and sought to determine the physical reasons that can explain the existence of the southern oasis situated at the foot of the Alps and lost in the middle of northern elements.

In Lower Brittany, the mild climate in winter is even more pronounced at Lake Maggiore, the study of vegetation indicates that it meets a certain way, and yet its latitude is three degrees Advanced north. To find an equivalence climacteric, at least as regards cold winter, you must go lower than the forty-fourth parallel, on the coast of Provence and Liguria. But then, as we know, the mild winter climate is mainly caused by powerful natural shelters that do not exist in any of Lower Brittany. As the comparison can she be, since the conditions are far from being the same in each case. We have seen, in fact, (*Felix Sahut. - Comparison of Climates of South and Southwest say France, broch. 8vo, 189 - See also Annals, 1889, p. 14t.*) That places such as Castres, Toulouse, Auch and Tarbes, which are roughly the same latitude as Nice, Menton, Cannes and Nice, but far from all are protective shelters, undergo relatively harsh winters and are placed in this respect in a situation much lower.

Part of the Armorican peninsula ranging from Roscoff to Brest lies between the sixth and seventh degree of longitude west of Paris. While there we descend towards the South, we find on the French coast of the ocean any locality where the climate in winter it can be accurately compared. If then, using the same longitude, we crossed Spain, we must first traverse a mountainous and relatively cool. So will we be forced to go down to the end of the Iberian Peninsula to meet some winters as rigorous as those of Lower Brittany. It is indeed only in the region between Almeria and Malaga that we find almost the same meridian, equivalence climacteric winter we would have sought in vain so far.

So we see that always remains in the vicinity of the same longitude, must go down to 12 degrees to the south to find, without any shelter, winters as mild as those in the region between Brest and Roscoff. It is a fact certainly very curious and very interesting to see. Also, contemplating all the vegetation so typical of Lower Brittany, it really looks like this little oasis seems lost very far southern regions with similar climates and would have been forgotten in the general cooling of Europe during the Ice Age.

MA Coutance, the distinguished Chairman of the Academic Society of Brest, which was published on the country where he lives truly remarkable work, made a comparison that seems very accurate (*Analogies climate, Brest with that of the time tertiary - Sample Bulletin ale the Academic Society of Brest*) Brest between climate and that of the Tertiary era. To show a strikingly similarities between them, MA Coutance first reports the following definition has given the famous botanist paleontologist Heer, the climate of the Tertiary period:

"Thus, a climate similar to that of the Canary Islands, but more humid, ie mainly characterized by a very long fall season, a mild winter and very fast, an early spring, a wet summer rather than very hot here the main lines of the climate in the tertiary accused footprints flora disappeared. "

This definition applies very accurately indeed the climate of the region we have described the vegetation, and to summarize in a few words the characters, we can not better conclude this study by quoting the following passage from the interesting communication from Mr. Coutance, in which he indicates the analogies climate Brest with that of the Tertiary period

"Sitting on the edge of the ocean, bathed by the waters of a branch of the Gulf Stream, deep in the mists Armorican swept speak humid winds from the southwest, our country has a temperate climate all special. The fall time as we speak, there extends a lot, and right now it is not yet finished; vegetation has not been suspended, and if the plants were stopped flowering, However, they still languish. We expect the winter, and now it can not be long. Maybe he will, as so often happens in a few starry nights oit the temperature drops a little below zero, and fast this winter and spring lax succeed. This season will bind imperceptibly a rather wet and hot summer, and fall will shorten as it shortens the winter. Remove our few winter days, real surprises, accidents true for our vegetation, rather than a normal phase, then raise the average year of 4 ° to 7 ° (*this is estimate Heer*) and instead of analogies, we have a perfect identity with tertiary climate means. '

As can be seen, the equivalence climacteric is really striking both clans. It is, in fact, whenever conditions almost identical, expressed by terms broadly similar, and we are pleased with Mr. Coutance accuracy very curious analogies resulting from this comparison interesting.

Montpellier. - Printing South Central (Hamelin brothers).

- **Excerpt from the magazine "The store picturesque"**
- **Published under the direction of Mr. Edouard Charton**
- **Year 1869. 1 fasc .. 37 year**
- **Document available on the website of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France - <http://gallica.bnf.fr/>**

The prickly Roscoff

Was often touted with good reason, the fertility of the territory of Roscoff. His vegetables and firsts are known and appreciated on more distant markets. They are located in Paris, and in the ports of the coast, to Holland and to England. But the testimony perhaps the most remarkable of the goodness of the soil and the mildness of the climate, almost always the same, it is a huge fig tree found in a garden called "Enclos des Capuchins," in the middle of the city. The proportions of this tree have something really huge. Foliage covers an area of about one hundred meters in circumference and several hundred people can find shelter. We built an arbor to consolidate against the violence of the winds, and we took the precaution to build a wall to support the branches that extend from all sides.

This tree is not the only one that is still the name in Britain for its size, and the tourists who pass through the Morbihan and would see, for example, the huge oak farm Villeneuve, near Napoleonville (Pontivy), not regret his race. The old trees of the Druids, whose branches are larger than many of our forest trees, and several people holding hands, arms outstretched, can barely encircle the trunk, brought to mind ideas of strength , calm and majesty indestructible.

The prickly Roscoff is a child with contemporary dolmens and menhirs, which can be fed to the sacred mistletoe its sap destined to fall under the golden sickle druids and yet the fig Roscoff is very old, and not one of those who do not live today birthplace land of the living. Things that he saw, and if he could talk, what stories it would nice to the days of old.

[see "The climate in Britain"](#)

[see "The Capuchin monastery"](#)

Last Modified: December 12, 2007