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IX. On the Cultivation of Peruvian Cotton

Dr Alex Hunter^a

^a Agri-Horticultural Society of Madras

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and wedges. The wood is very heavy, and does not float; it is liable to split in the hot weather, and should be seasoned, and then stored under cover.

2. The Olive, *Zaitoon*, which has also been tested for wood-engraving at the Madras School of Arts, is another plant of the Mediterranean flora, which ranges from the coast of the Levant to the Himalaya. It varies a good deal in the shape of its leaves and in the amount of ferruginescence, hence the synonyms *cuspidata* and *ferruginea*, but it does not appear to differ specifically from the *Olea europæa* (Mount of Olives), the emblem of peace and plenty. The finest specimens I have seen are in the Kaghan and Peshawur valleys, where the fruit resembles that of rocky sites in Palestine or Gibraltar. The wood is much used for combs and beads—and is found to answer for the teeth of wheels at the Madhopore workshops.

3. *Urtica heterophylla*, a kind of Indian nettle, is plentiful in Simla, having followed man to the summit of Jako, attracted by moisture to an elevation unusual for any member of the family. It is found within the stations of Dalhousie and Dharmasalla, and at many intermediate points. The quantity is surprising wherever the soil has become nitrogenous by the encamping of cattle. The growth at this season (July) also is luxuriant in shady ravines near houses, where there is abundance of black mould; but the sting being virulent, the plants are habitually cut down as a nuisance, both by private persons and municipal committees.

There are other plants of the nettle tribe, particularly the *Boehmeria salicifolia*, "siharu," used for making ropes (to which attention has been directed by Dr Jameson); this plant does not sting, and is abundant at low elevations. The produce of this might be turned to good account, though not yet recognised as merchantable fibre.

4. *Cultivation of Bamboo*.—Mr M'Leod, Financial Commissioner in the Punjab, writes thus to the Commissioners of Umballa and Jullundhur:—

"As it is desired to extend the growth of the bamboo as widely as possible throughout the Punjab, and some of the districts of your division possess them in greater or less abundance, I have to request that you will ascertain whether any of the four following varieties have borne seed during the present year, and inform me of the result of your inquiries:—

1. The hollow Bamboo of the plains.

2. Solid Bamboo of the lower hills, of which spear handles and clubs are usually made.

3. The Nirgali or small Bamboo of the hills, growing at elevations from 5 to 8000 feet.

4. The Garoo, or still smaller hill Bamboo, growing at higher elevations, probably up to 12,000 feet.

"It would be interesting also to ascertain, if possible, from the people, the intervals which lapse between the seasons of flowering of the several varieties—a point on which the more observant might readily furnish information, as, after flowering and yielding seed, the entire tract of bamboo which has seeded, simultaneously dries up and perishes, fresh plantations springing up from the seeds which have been scattered by the old stock.

IX. Dr Alex. Hunter, Secretary of the Agri-Horticultural Society of Madras, transmitted reports as to the cultivation of Peruvian cotton at Chingleput by Dr Shortt, and in the Kistna District by Mr E. B. Foord. Both reports are satisfactory. The following is a statement which he also transmitted:—

Dr A. Hunter on the Cultivation of Peruvian Cotton. 65

Statement showing the Quantity of Cotton carried on the Madras Railway in the Years 1861-62 up to June 1863.

	1861. Indian Maunds, or 82 2-7 lbs.		1862. Indian Maunds, or 82 2-7 lbs.		1863. Indian Maunds, or 82 2-7 lbs.	
January, ...	6,846	10	694	0	7,886	10
February, ...	10,519	10	3,535	30	10,305	...
March, ...	6,134	15	3,346	10	4,471	30
April, ...	1,390	30	5,466	30	13,597	30
May, ...	3,046	20	21,795	10	50,500	20
June, ...	7,238	30	17,457	10	71,193	18
	35,175	35	52,295	10	157,954	28
July, ...	8,174	20	29,499	20	...	...
August, ...	6,357	20	20,381	0	...	...
September, ...	3,721	30	24,979	10	...	...
October, ...	5,043	30	14,173	0	...	...
November, ...	6,836	20	16,157	30	...	...
December, ...	12,607	20	17,151	20	...	...
Total, ...	77,917	15	174,637	10	175,954	28
Average per month in the 1st 6 months, ...	5,862	25	8,715	35	26,325	31
Average per month in the year, ...	6,493	4	14,355	4	26,325	31

Table showing the Monthly Export of Cotton from Madras, and its Official Value from 1860 to 1863.

	1860.		1861.		1862.		1863.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Cwt.	Rs.	Cwt.	Rs.	Cwt.	Rs.	Cwt.	Rs.
January, ...	4,973	82,154	11,162	1,52,904	10,340	2,09,191	7,312	3,35,555
February, ...	5,605	1,02,290	26,439	3,53,754	9,096	1,87,300	24,485	11,96,878
March, ...	7,499	1,09,380	6,085	89,637	12,820	2,52,881	25,780	12,68,855
April, ...	10,591	1,66,235	6,748	1,30,242	7,430	1,80,941	12,755	6,44,705
May, ...	5,010	78,105	11,247	1,68,556	17,433	3,89,017	26,260	14,36,706
June, ...	1,663	25,132	20,113	3,12,498	36,115	8,80,529	55,875	31,00,255
July, ...	5,829	1,04,696	15,528	2,51,887	35,114	9,46,471	75,269	43,03,488
August, ...	21,246	3,22,288	21,061	3,40,859	39,062	15,54,115	...	...
September, ...	4,661	69,988	5,750	95,312	39,262	18,69,655	...	...
October, ...	19,003	2,65,371	6,391	1,17,888	5,749	2,85,660	...	...
November, ...	11,961	1,48,934	7,615	1,44,850	10,264	5,12,605	...	...
December, ...	6,992	1,01,454	2,315	46,747	18,844	3,28,133	...	...
	105,033	15,76,027	140,404	22,05,134	2,41,529	82,36,498	...	...

Dr Hunter also reports that the American Saw Gin for cleaning cotton has been introduced with great success.