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I. Notes of a Trip to the North of Italy and Chamouni, in August and September 1861

Professor Balfour

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5. An old cedar of Lebanon, near the house and close by the dam	}	11 ft. 4 in.
6. A silver fir east of the house		12 5
7. A larch do. do.		8 4
8. A cedar of Lebanon		7 8
9. A cedar of Lebanon		7 4
10. A cedar of Lebanon		8 0
11. Elm		7 10
12. Elm		10 2
13. A tall spruce		7 0

(2.) *Cavers' Carre, March 1860.*

1. Silver fir taken 4½ ft. from the ground	13	6
2. Do. do. do.	12	3
3. Do. do. do.	12	2
4. A beech do. do.	11	4
5. Do. do. do.	12	0
6. Do. do. do.	10	0

The cedars of Lebanon, with one exception—viz., the largest—seem to have been planted in 1814. They appear to have suffered a little from the severe frost of last winter, the upper branches of some of the trees having rather a scathed-like appearance, with the foliage not so thick and rich as usual. Speaking from memory, I should think these cedars would range about thirty feet in height, or a little more.

A communication was read by Professor Balfour from Dr Emilius W. Dubuc, of H.M.S. Cossack, Simon's Bay, Cape of Good Hope, in which he gave some account of the plants seen by him near St Jago, Cape de Verde Islands, as well as in the neighbourhood of the Cape.

Dr Andrew Inglis exhibited a specimen of the male leaf insect (*Phyllium Cythe*, Gray) from Assam.

Mr P. S. Robertson, Trinity Nursery, exhibited a branch of *Aralia japonica* in full flower, grown in the open air.

Mr Dyce Duckworth, exhibited specimens of *Ulva latissima* which had been blown twenty miles inland in Cumberland.

Professor Macdonald exhibited specimens of balls, formed apparently of woody tissue, which had been found in the stomach of a carpenter who had died of dyspepsia.

12th December 1861.—Professor BALFOUR, Vice-President,
in the Chair.

The following gentlemen were elected Office-bearers for
1861-62 :—

President.

T. C. ARCHER, Esq., Director of the National Museum.

Vice-Presidents.

Professor ALLMAN.

ALEXANDER DICKSON, M.D.

Professor BALFOUR.

W. H. LOWE. M.D.

Council.

W. A. F. BROWNE, M.D.	FINDLAY ANDERSON.
JAMES M'BAIN, M.D., R.N.	F. LOCKWOOD LOGAN, M.D.
DYCE DUCKWORTH.	JAMES G. REID.
WILLIAM GORRIE.	P. S. ROBERTSON.
HUMPHREY GRAHAM, W.S.	R. J. B. CUNYNGHAME.

Honorary Secretary.....ROBERT KAYE GREVILLE, LL.D.

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AuditorWILLIAM BRAND, W.S.

Treasurer.....PATRICK NEILL FRASER.

ArtistNEIL STEWART.

CuratorANDREW INGLIS, M.D.

Assistant-Secretary, and }
Assistant Curator } JOHN SADLER.

The following gentlemen were elected members of the Society:—

Resident Fellows.

ARTHUR ABNEY WALKER, M.D.

HARRY FOOTE, Esq.

F. NAYLOR, Esq.

F. B. W. WHITE, Esq.

Associate.

Mr WILLIAM BELL, Royal Botanic Garden.

The following donations to the Society's Library were laid on the table:—

Transactions of the Scottish Arboreal Society, Vol. II., Parts 1 and 2.—From the Society.

Journal of the Royal Dublin Society, Nos. 18 and 19, 1860.—From the Society.

Report of the Royal Society of Tasmania, 1858.—From the Society.

Journal of the Proceedings of the Linnean Society, Nos. 16 to 21, with three Botanical Supplements.—From the Society.

Proceedings of the Royal Horticultural Society, London, No. 31.—From the Society.

The following donations to the Society's Herbarium were announced:—

From M. Rostan—A collection of Dried Plants from the Waldensian Valleys.

From Mr J. W. Brown—Collection of Scottish Alpine Plants.

From N. A. Dalzell, Esq.—Specimens of *Podostemon Dalzellii*, from Bombay.

There have also been added to the University Herbarium, a collection of 160 species of Plants from Texas and New Mexico, collected by Fendler; and a collection of Fiji Plants, by Dr Seemann.

The following donations to the Museum of Economic Botany at the Botanic Garden were announced:—

From E. A. Sanford, Esq., Wellington, Somerset—Cones of *Abies Douglasii* var. *taxifolia*.

From Dr Emile Dubuc—Fruit of *Adansonia digitata*, from St Jago.

From N. A. Dalzell, Esq.—Galls on the Leaves of *Tectona grandis*, from Bombay.

A large Transverse Section of the Stem of *Urtica gigas*, or Tree-Nettle, about twenty-one inches in diameter, had also been purchased for the Museum.

WILLIAM BRAND, Esq., having taken the Chair, the following Communications were read:—

I. *Notes of a Trip to the North of Italy and Chamouni, in August and September 1861.* By Professor BALFOUR.

In this paper the author described his visit, along with the Rev. Dr A. Thomson, to Paris, Lyons, Marseilles, Genoa, Leghorn, Pisa, Florence, Bologna, Milan, Turin, Latour and the Waldensian Valleys, Arona, Lago Maggiore, Domo d'Ossola, Simplon, Brieg, Sion, Lausanne, Geneva, and Chamouni, and noticed briefly some of the more interesting plants which had been observed. Among those seen in the neighbourhood of Genoa were enumerated the following:—*Olea europæa*, *Platanus orientalis*, *Tamarix gallica*, *Capparis spinosa*, *Carthamus lanatus*, *Medicago sativa* and *falcata*, *Quercus Ilex* and *coccifera*, *Nerium Oleander*, *Mirabilis Jalapa*, *Euphorbia palustris*, and *Cyparissias*, *Lactuca Scariola*, *Punica Granatum*, *Colutea arborescens*, *Cercis Siliquastrum*, *Convolvulus siculus*, *Ficus Carica*, *Morus nigra*, *Myrtus communis*, *Ornus europæa*, *Schinus Molle*, *Pistacia Lentiscus*, *Centaurea Calcitrapa*, *maculosa* and *alba*, *Arbutus Unedo*, *Clematis erecta*, *Dianthus Carthusianorum* and *sylvestris*, *Gypsophila repens*, *Cytisus triflorus*, *Spartium junceum*, *Psoralea bituminosa*, *Lotus diffusus*, *Genista germanica* and *cenisia*, *Dorycnium hirsutum*, *Senecio albanicus*, *Eryngium campestre*, *Crithmum maritimum*, *Rubia peregrina*, *Scabiosa canescens* and *lucida*, *Aster acris*, *Pulicaria dysenterica*, *Borkhausia setosa* and *fœtida*, *Carduus defloratus*, *Veronica spicata*, *Verbascum thapsiforme* and *Lychnitis*, *Scrophularia canina*, *Euphrasia lutea*, *Sideritis hyssopifolia*, *Salvia pratensis*, *Mentha sylvestris* and *rotundifolia*, *Phytolacca dioica*, *Smilax aspera*, *Allium angulosum*, *Cynodon Dactylon*, *Setaria viridis*, *Panicum Crus-galli*, *Arundo Donax*, *Adiantum Capillus-Veneris*. A tolerably full list was given of the plants found on the Vaudois Alps, chiefly from specimens supplied by M. Rostan. The following may be recorded:—

Ranunculaceæ.

Actæa spicata, *L.*
Anemone baldensis, *L.*
Aquilegia alpina, *L.*
Atragene alpina, *L.*
Ranunculus glacialis, *L.*
 plantagineus, *All.*
 Villarsii, *DC.*

Cruciferae.

Arabis alpestris, *Sch.*
 brassicæformis, *Wallr.*
 cærulea, *Hænke.*
 muralis, *Bert.*
 pedemontana, *Bert.*
Cardamine impatiens, *L.*
 pratensis, *L.*
 sylvatica, *Link.*
Cheiranthus pumilus, *L.*
Dentaria pentaphyllos, *L.*
Draba aizoides, *L.*
 muralis, *L.*
Hugueninia tanacetifolia, *Rehb.*
Hutchinsia alpina, *Br.*
Iberis pinnata, *L.*
Nasturtium pyrenaicum, *Br.*
Petrocallis pyrenaica, *Br.*
Thlaspi alpestre, *L.*
 arvense, *L.*
 virgatum, *G.*
Vesicaria utriculata, *Lam.*

Papaveraceæ.

Papaver argemonoides, *Cesati.*

Fumariaceæ.

Corydalis fabacea, *Pers.*
 solida, *Hook.*

Cistaceæ.

Helianthemum alpestre, *DC.*

Violaceæ.

Viola ambigua, *W. & K.*
 canina, *L.*
 cenisia, *L.*
 collina, *Bes.*
 nummularifolia, *All.*
 odorata, *L.*
 pinnata, *L.*
 sciaphylla, *Koch.*
 scotophylla, *Good.*
 sépincola, *Good.*
 sylvatica, *Lam.*
 valderia, *All.*

Droseraceæ.

Aldrovanda vesiculosa, *L.*

Polygalaceæ.

Polygala calcarea, *Sch.*

Caryophyllaceæ.

Arenaria verna, *L.*
 Villarsii, *Ball.*
Cerastium lineare, *All.*
Dianthus atrorubens, *All.*
 deltoides, *L.*
Mœnchia mantica, *Bart.*
Silene nutans, *L.*
Tunica Saxifraga, *Scop.*

Linaceæ.

Linum gallicum, *L.*

Leguminosæ.

Astragalus aristatus, *L'Herit.*
 Onobrychis, *L.*
Cytisus alpinus, *Mill.*
 nigrescens, *L.*
Lathyrus heterophyllus, *L.*
 sylvestris, *L.*
Onobrychis montana, *DC.*
Oxytropis campestris, *DC.*
 montana, *DC.*
Phaca alpina, *L.*
 australis, *L.*
Trifolium badium, *Sch.*
 Molineri, *Balb.*
 pannonicum, *Jacq.*
 scabrum, *L.*
 strictum, *L.*
Vicia pisiformis, *L.*
 sylvatica, *L.*

Rosaceæ.

Dryas octopetala, *L.*
Potentilla Fragariastrum, *Ehrh.*
 minima, *Hall.*
 valderia, *Sm.*

Lythraceæ.

Suffrenia filiformis, *Bellar.*

Onagraceæ.

Circæa alpina, *L.*
Epilobium angustifolium, *L.*
 Fleischeri, *Hochst.*
 rosmarinifolium, *Hænk.*

Illecebraceæ.

Paronychia polygonifolia, *DC.*
Herniaria incana, *Lam.*

Crassulaceæ.
Sedum alsinifolium, *All.*

Saxifragaceæ.
Saxifraga exarata, *Vill.*
Cotyledon, *L.*
diapensioides, *Bell.*
pedemontana, *All.*
purpurea, *All.*
valdensis, *DC.*

Umbelliferae.
Bupleurum ranunculoides, *L.*
Myrrhis odorata, *Scop.*
Plycotis heterophylla, *Koch.*

Galiaceæ.
Galium pedemontanum, *All.*

Valerianaceæ.
Valeriana tuberosa, *L.*

Compositæ.
Achillea nana, *L.*
Adenostylis leucophylla, *Reichb.*
Artemisia glacialis, *L.*
spicata, *Jacq.*
Chrysanthemum montanum, *L.*
Doronicum austriacum, *Willd.*
Clusii, *Tausch.*
scorpioides, *Willd.*
Filago arvensis, *L.*
Hypochaeris uniflora, *Vill.*
Senecio incanus, *L.*

Campanulaceæ.
Campanula alpestris, *All.*
Elatines, *L.*
stenocodon, *Boiss et Reut.*

Ericaceæ.
Pyrola minor, *L.*
Monotropa Hypopitys, *L.*

Gentianaceæ.
Gentiana brachyphylla, *Vill.*
ciliata, *L.*
excisa, *Koch.*
Rostani, *Reuter.*

Boraginaceæ.
Cerinthe minor, *L.*
Pulmonaria saccharata, *Mill.*

Scrophulariaceæ.
Bartsia alpina, *L.*

Euphrasia lanceolata, *Lam.*
Odontites, *L.*
salisburgensis, *Funk.*
Pedicularis fasciculata, *Bellar.*
foliosa, *L.*
incarnata, *Jacq.*
rosea, *Wulf.*
rostrata, *L.*
verticillata, *L.*
Scrophularia vernalis, *L.*
Veronica Allionii, *Vill.*
bellidifolia, *L.*
urticæfolia, *L.*

Labiatae.
Calamintha grandiflora, *Moench.*
piperella, *Reitt.*
Galeopsis angustifolia, *Ehrh.*
intermedia, *Vill.*
Teucrium lucidum, *L.*
Pinguicula alpina, *L.*
vulgaris, *L.*

Primulaceæ.
Androsace carnea, *L.*
obtusifolia, *All.*
Aretia vitalliana, *L.*
Primula latifolia, *L.*
villosa, *Jacq.*

Polygonaceæ.
Polygonum alpinum, *All.*

Scleranthaceæ.
Scleranthus biennis, *Reuter.*

Salicaceæ.
Salix hastata, *L.*

Orchidaceæ.
Orchis incarnata, *L.*
Serapias longipetala, *Pollin.*

Liliaceæ.
Allium sphærocephalum, *L.*
Tulipa præcox, *Tenor.*

Juncaceæ.
Juncus alpinus, *L.*
capitatus, *Weigel.*
Jacquini, *L.*
Luzula nivea, *DC.*
pedemontana, *Boiss et Reut.*
spadicea, *DC.*

Cyperaceæ.
Carex curvula, *All.*

Gramineæ.
Agrostis pumila, *L.*
Aira flexuosa, *L.*
Alopecurus Gerardi, *Vill.*
Avena versicolor, *Vill.*
Bromus squarrosus, *L.*
Festuca flavescens, *Bill.*

Oreochloa pedemontana, *Boiss et Reut.*
Poa cenisia, *All.*

Stipa Calamagrostis, *Whlberg.*
Vulpia ligustica, *Reichb.*

Equisetaceæ.
Equisetum variegatum, *Sch.*

Filices.
Asplenium fontanum, *DC.*
Blechnum Spicant, *L.*
Lastrea dilatata, *L.*
rigida, *Presl.*
Polypodium Robertianum, *Hoff.*
Woodsia hyperborea, *R. Br.*

Professor Balfour gave details of his visit to Chamouni, the Brevent, Flegère, Montanvert, the Jardin, Tête Noir, and Martigny, in company with Mr C. Cowan and Mr Thomas Chalmers. The following were some of the plants collected in the Jardin district:—

Cardamine resedifolia, *L.*
Arenaria biflora, *L.*
Silene acaulis, *L.*
rupestris, *L.*
Trifolium alpinum, *L.*
Alchemilla alpina, *L.*
Potentilla grandiflora, *L.*
Epilobium alpinum, *L.*
Sempervivum arachnoideum, *L.*
Saxifraga aizoides, *L.*
aspera, *L.*
bryoides, *L.*
stellaris, *L.*
Astrantia minor, *L.*
Athamanta cretensis, *L.*
Bupleurum stellatum, *L.*
Meum mutellinum, *Gærtn.*
Apargia alpina, *Hust.*
autumnalis, *Willd.*
Adenostylis alpina, *B. et F.*
Carduus spinosissimus, *L.*
Carlina acaulis, *L.*
Chrysanthemum alpinum, *L.*
Hieracium alpinum, *L.*
angustifolium, *Hopp.*
aureum, *Scop.*
cymosum, *Vill.*

Gnaphalium alpinum, *L.*
Senecio incanus, *L.*
Tussilago alpina, *L.*
Campanula Trachelium, *L.*
Phyteuma humile, *Sch.*
spicatum, *L.*
Vaccinium uliginosum, *L.*
Vitis-Idæa, *L.*
Gentiana purpurea, *E.*
Euphrasia salisburgensis, *Funk.*
Linaria alpina, *Desf.*
Veronica saxatilis, *L.*
Acinos vulgaris, *Pers.*
Primula glutinosa, *L.*
Juniperus communis, *L.*
Luzula spadicea, *DC.*
Carex foetida, *All.*
Agrostis alba, *L.*
alpina, *Scop.*
vulgaris, *With.*
Alopecurus pratensis, *L.*
Phleum alpinum, *L.*
Poa alpina, *L.*
laxa, *Hænke.*
Allosorus crispus, *Bernh.*
Bryum androgynum, *Hed.*
Cetraria islandica, *Ach.*

He also described what he had seen of the remains of the guides who had perished by the avalanche during Dr Hamel's ascent of Mont Blanc in 1820. These remains made their appearance in July 1861, in the Glacier Bossons. They consisted of bones, teeth, hair, the remains of hat, gaiters, buttons, mittens, lantern, and baton. Their appearance at this period confirmed the statements of Principal Forbes as to the movements of glaciers.

During the whole excursion the heat was excessive,—Fahrenheit's thermometer rising to upwards of 90° in the shade. The vegetation had suffered much from the heat and drought. The Arno, at Florence,

could be crossed at some parts dry-shod, and the melting of the glaciers gave rise to inundations in the valley of the Rhone.

The paper was illustrated by specimens of the plants collected.

II. *Notes on the Cyperaceæ*—(1.) *Carex Grahami* (Boott); (2.) *Eleocharis palustris*, and its Allies. By BENJAMIN CARRINGTON, M.D., F.L.S. Communicated by Professor BALFOUR. (Plate VI.)

(1.) *Carex Grahami*, Boott.

While engaged making drawings of the *Carices*, some time ago, I found, mingled with specimens of *C. saxatilis*, L., from Glen Fee, Clova, two or three plants of larger size, and differing in several respects from the rest. The spikelets were larger, straw-coloured; glumes acute, much shorter than the *pale elliptic-oblong*, inflated perigynium, *distinctly 4-5 ribbed*. The nut was *abortive* in all the spikes, although mature nuts were present in *C. saxatilis*. The perigynium of the latter is of smaller size, *oval, ribless*, and like the glumes, which it equals in length, of a *deep purple* colour. These characters led me to identify the plant with *C. Grahami*, which Dr Boott appears to have considered a good species.

Wishing to obtain more information, I wrote to Professor Balfour (May 1858), and he was good enough to forward me the specimens preserved in the College Herbarium.

In his reply, he remarks, that "*C. Grahami* is confined to one spot in Glen Fee, pretty high up on the rocks; whilst *C. saxatilis* occurs commonly in marshy ground, on most of our high hills."

The significance of this information will be better understood, when I state, that in one of the Herbarium specimens, we find, springing from the same rhizome, spikes apparently of both kinds. The one, having the dark, ribless perigynium of *C. saxatilis*; the other, the large, striated, and abortive fruit of *C. Grahami*.

We frequently meet with deformed perigynia in *Carex intermedia* (*disticha*), accompanied by abortion of the nut. This change is probably due to some morbid action of a local nature, by which the growth of the germen is arrested, and the perianth developed at its expense.

C. Grahami retains all its peculiarities under cultivation, and looks even more unlike *C. saxatilis*. When in Ireland (June 1861), Mr D. Moore, of Glasnevin, was kind enough to show me fruiting plants of both kinds. Upon dissection, however, I found the perigone of *C. Grahami* enclosing only the undeveloped germen, as in the wild specimens.

(2.) *Eleocharis palustris*, and its Allies.

In the fourth edition of "Babington's Manual," we find descriptions of three species of *Eleocharis*, with lenticular fruit, dilated articulate styles, and two stigmas.

Having carefully dissected the species, the following notes may be found useful to others. It should be understood that all descriptions of the fruit refer to the ripe Caryopsis. Plants with mature fruit, especially of the rarer species, are obtained with great difficulty. This may account for inaccuracies of detail, even by such careful observers as Professor Babington. Thus he calls the fruit of *E. palustris*, round-obovate; of *E. uniglumis*, pyriform; and *E. Watsoni*, oblong; whereas I have invariably found that of the first *exactly obovate*, and of the two latter *bluntly rotund-obovate*.

Eleocharis palustris, L.—*Rhizome* extensively creeping, woody, giving off fascicles of stems from the upper surface of the nodes, and fibrous roots