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On: 28 December 2014, At: 02:30

Publisher: Taylor & Francis

Informa Ltd Registered in England and Wales Registered Number:
1072954 Registered office: Mortimer House, 37-41 Mortimer Street,
London W1T 3JH, UK

Transactions of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/tped18>

II. Measurements of Trees at Dryburgh Abbey; and Cavers' Carre, Roxburghshire

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Published online: 01 Dec 2010.

To cite this article: Dr John Alex Smith (1863) II. Measurements of Trees at Dryburgh Abbey; and Cavers' Carre, Roxburghshire , Transactions of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh, 7:1-4, 252-253, DOI: [10.1080/03746606309467827](https://doi.org/10.1080/03746606309467827)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03746606309467827>

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characteristic plants were date palms in fruit, tamarisk and cypress trees, and in the water *Papyrus* and *Saccharum*. After a late *table d'hôte*, we were despatched in the old desert vans to the railway station, whence we travelled twenty miles, and were then put on board a small Nile steamer. We received special injunctions to carry nothing heavier than a carpet bag, but I was determined to take the Cinchona glass case which was given to me at Kew, and I have been able to bring it hitherto, but it has been a source of continual anxiety by night and by day, and has been conveyed through various trans-shipments with much difficulty. As Indian travellers do not now-a-days voyage on the Nile, this has been a remarkable incident in our wanderings. The whole country was in some places flooded as far as we could see—the usual landmarks for steering were submerged, and here and there we noticed the tops of trees in passing; while near *Kafir Zayat* we saw part of a railway engine and several carriages standing out of the water. On little islands and small raised embankments were long lines of villagers, with their camels, buffaloes, sheep, piles of furniture and goods, down to the water's edge. I have been inquiring of the officials here as to the real state of matters, and am informed that the Nile rose $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet above the usual average. The origin of the catastrophe is said to have been the abolition of the establishment for watching the embankments, whose duty it was to attend to the sluices, and repair any breach without delay. This evening the river is found to have subsided forty inches, so that it is not now more than a foot above the usual height at this season. The great question now is, to obtain an immediate and abundant supply of seed for the next crop; urgent applications have been made to the Pasha, but no reply has as yet been received. The *barrage* of the Nile, which cost two millions of money, was our greatest obstacle; the velocity of the current rushing through was great, and the difficulty of encountering it was serious; the steering not being steady, the paddle-wheels touched the banks, and were slightly damaged. Our merciful preservation amid these perilous scenes calls for the strongest expression of our gratitude. I had opportunity of examining in every tumbler of water the rich deposit of the Nile, which is even more abundant than that of the Ganges in the Delta. From conversation in the market-place, I fear that much Egyptian cotton has been destroyed as it was ripening. The public funds have been affected, and the cost of restoring the railway will be great. The Pasha was visible, walking along the famous bridge built by G. Stephenson, surveying the effect of the inundation. I have seen great floods in India, but generally the plains were soaked with rain, which caused the flood; here a vast extent of dry, parched land was inundated with fluid mud—the very edge of the river being hot sand or baked soil of brick-like hardness. The rain evidently falls on the mountains far distant in the interior of Africa."

II. *Measurements of Trees at Dryburgh Abbey; and Cavers' Carre, Roxburghshire.* By DR JOHN ALEX. SMITH.

(1.) *Dryburgh, September 1861.*

	Circum.
1. An old yew tree taken at 4 feet from the ground	10 ft. 6 in.
2. A cedar of Lebanon near the Abbey, taken at same height	} 6 4
3. A horse-chestnut near the house	
4. A beech near the offices, at the damside	13 6

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.	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.