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cauldrons, full of sea-water, I observed a cuttle-fish. I botanised on Rocher des Oiseaux on 19th March 1890. I reached the island, with difficulty, by wading across, through the surf, from Ile Marianne at low spring tide. The island forms a resting-place for sea-birds, hence the name Rocher des Oiseaux, or the Bird Rock.

I observed only one plant of *Sesuvium Portulacastrum* on the island, at 8 feet above sea-level.

EXCURSION OF THE SCOTTISH ALPINE BOTANICAL CLUB TO TYNDRUM, IN 1894. By WILLIAM CRAIG, M.D., F.R.S.E., F.R.C.S.E., Secretary of the Club.

On Monday, 6th August last, the Scottish Alpine Botanical Club met in Stewart's Royal Hotel, Tyndrum, for a few days' botanizing. There were ten members of the Club present, including our esteemed President, Mr. Boyd. We were most comfortably entertained, and the charges were very moderate.

At the business meeting in the evening, reference was made to the losses the Club had sustained by the deaths of the two honorary members, Mr. Charles Jenner and Dr. Robert Walker. It was Mr. Charles Jenner, at a meeting of this Society on 12th March 1868, who first suggested the idea of such a Club, and Dr. Walker was one of the original members of the Club, and was present at its first excursion.

Tuesday, 7th August.—The morning was wet and the hills were enveloped in mist, and consequently the day was quite unsuitable for mountaineering, and it was agreed that no hills should be climbed that day. As this was the first day that the West Highland Railway was opened for traffic, certain of the members resolved to explore the country through which this railway passes as far as Roy Bridge, chiefly with the object of ascertaining how much of the country between Tyndrum and Glen Spean could be explored from Tyndrum as a centre. Some of the members went as far as Roy Bridge, whilst others went only as far as Inverlair.

Near Roy Bridge the following plants were gathered:—*Potentilla tormentilla*, Scop., var. *procumbens*, Sibth.; *Circaea alpina*, L.; *Veronica scutellata*, L.; and the rare fungus *Boletus satanas*. Near Inverlair the following plants were gathered:—*Habenaria albida*, R. Br., and *Sparganium minimum*, Fries.

Two of the members, instead of going with the others on the railway, spent the day fishing and botanising on Lochan Bhe, a small loch near Tyndrum. It is situated in Argyllshire, and is 822 feet above sea-level. They collected some fine specimens of *Lobelia Dortmanna*, L., and abundance of a peculiar submerged form of a plant which was found by the Club in this loch during an excursion in 1891. On that occasion specimens were submitted to Bennett, of Croydon, and other botanists, who pronounced it *Scirpus fluitans*, L. The plant was in great abundance in many parts of the loch, but always in deep water, and though careful search was made, no specimens were obtained in flower or fruit. No plants of this *Scirpus* could be found on the sides of the loch. If the plant be *Scirpus fluitans*, it is certainly a very remarkable form.

Wednesday, 8th August.—The morning was fine, but the day did not look promising, nevertheless the Club resolved to visit Beinn Laoigh. We drove in a waggonette about eight miles down the valley of the Lochy to a point near the foot of Beinn Laoigh. From this point it is a very easy walk to the rocks on the west side of the mountain. The first part of the day was fine, but the after part was very wet and misty. On account of the mist we confined our examination to the rocks on the west and north of the mountain. We saw most of the alpine plants which are known to grow on these rocks, among which may be mentioned a small form of *Cochlearia alpina*, Wats.; *Triglochin palustre*, L., at an elevation of 2500 feet, being 500 feet above the height mentioned in the last edition of Hooker's Flora; *Juncus triglumis*, L.; *J. biglumis*, L.; *J. castaneus*, L.; *Kobresia caricina*, Willd.; *Carex pulla*, Good.; *Woodsia hyperborea*, R. Br.; *Cystopteris montana*, Link., in several places; *Polypodium Phegopteris*, L., with some of the fronds crested. So far as the members of the Club knew, this was a new station for *Kobresia*.

As we were leaving the rocks the mist became very dense, but we all got down safely. We found the Lochy in flood, and had to wade a deep water before we could reach our carriage. We were all drenched, but got back to the hotel in good time for dinner, and none of the party suffered afterwards from the drenching.

Thursday, 9th August.—The morning was fine, and we resolved to visit Loch Lomond and Ben Voirlich. Accordingly we left Tyndrum about 8 A.M., *per* West Highland Railway, for Ardlui, at the head of Loch Lomond, which was reached in forty-one minutes. Here the party divided. One party botanised on the sides of Loch Lomond, and amongst other plants collected may be mentioned *Drosera anglica*, Huds.; *Circeæ alpina*, L.; *Carum verticillatum*, Koch.; *Scutellaria galericulata*, L.; *Hymenophyllum tunbridgense*, Sm.; *H. unilaterale*, Willd.; and the moss *Diphyscium foliosum*. The other party ascended Ben Voirlich, a mountain 3092 feet high, being exactly 100 feet lower than Ben Lomond. The day was very hot, and consequently mountaineering was somewhat arduous. We reached the top about 1.30 P.M., and had a fine view from the summit. We saw most of the alpine plants which are known to grow on this mountain, a record of which is found in Vol. XI. of the Society's Transactions, at page 70, by the late Professor Balfour. We met with no plants not mentioned in that list, but we found a large quantity of *Pteris aquilina*, L., with the fronds all crested. There would be at least an acre of the hillside covered with this fern, and nearly every plant was abnormal. It is somewhat remarkable that this variety had not been recorded previously from Ben Voirlich when we consider its abundance, and the fact that the hill has been so frequently visited by botanists. Several plants were dug up, and it is hoped that some of them will grow. This variety is not unknown to cultivators of ferns, but, so far as I am aware, is not common in a wild state.

Friday, 10th August.—The morning was again fine, and after an early breakfast we started for Beinn Laoigh and Ben Oss. The whole party travelled together as far as the farm of Coninish, when we separated into two parties, one going towards Beinn Laoigh, with the view of examining the rocks to the *south* of the great corrie, a portion of the

mountain which had not been previously botanised by the Club. On the way up to the corrie they found *Kobresia caricina*, Willd., on the well-known station for this plant, which is a very different part of the mountain from the place where the plant was found by the Club two days previously. They did not enter the great corrie, but at once proceeded to examine the rocks to the south of this corrie. Among the plants collected may be mentioned *Arabis petraea*, Lamk.; *Draba incana*, L.; *Dryas octopetala*, L.; *Saxifraga nivalis*, L.; *Hieracium lingulatum*, Backh.; *H. vulgare*, Fries; *H. holosericeum*, Backh.; *H. Oreades*, Fries; *Veronica humifusa*, Dicks.; *Bartsia alpina*, L.; *Carex vaginata*, Tausch.; *Asplenium viride*, Huds.; and the moss *Leskea rufescens*. The *Hieracia* were identified by Bennett, of Croydon. A very curious form of *Arabis* was obtained on the rocks, which differed much from the ordinary form of *Arabis petraea*. The plants were all seedlings, and they are being cultivated with the view of identifying the species. These plants were sent to Bennett, and he has planted some of the specimens, and if the plant flowers we will ascertain whether or not it is a mere form of *Arabis petraea*.

The day was remarkably fine, and the party went in the afternoon to the summit of the mountain, from which they had a magnificent view of the surrounding country.

The other party crossed the river by the bridge at Coninish farmhouse, and went to Ben Oss, a mountain not previously examined by the Club. It is 3374 feet high, and is situated south-west of Beinn Laoigh. We found the rocks very unproductive. We saw many of the more common alpine plants, but only those which are found on almost all our Highland mountains. The best plant observed was *Saxifraga nivalis*, L., and even this plant was rare. It was very difficult climbing among the rocks, but we all reached the top in safety, from which an excellent view was obtained. We were anxious not only to examine the mountain, but also Loch Oss, a small loch situated due east from the summit of Ben Oss. It is 2084 feet above sea-level, and the river from it runs into Glen Falloch, a short distance above the head of Loch Lomond. The loch, like the mountain, was somewhat disappointing. The two best plants obtained were *Callitriche hamulata*, Kütz., and *Potamogeton*

nitens, Weber, both of which plants were identified by Bennett.

After examining the loch, we retraced our steps to the ridge a little to the east of the summit. It was a stiff climb, and from the summit of this ridge we descended by a steep and difficult ravine, in which we saw some of the more common alpine plants, such as *Saussurea alpina*, DC., and several others, but none which can be called rare. We managed to get to the bottom of the rocks in safety, and after a long walk we reached our hotel in good time for dinner, greatly delighted with our excursion.

Saturday, 11th August.—To-day the excursion came to an end, and the members returned home, all greatly delighted with our sojourn in Tyndrum.

NOTES FROM THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN, EDINBURGH.

I. REPORT ON VEGETATION DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY 1895. By ROBERT LINDSAY, Curator.

The weather of last month was more severe than any we have experienced in January since 1881. All open air vegetation has been held completely in check. It is fortunate that it was so, when such unusually severe weather has been protracted into the present month, else many plants would have suffered much more severely.

Not a single plant came into flower during January, while last year there were 20 during that month. Not since 1881 has there been a January without our having some plants in flower to record.