IV. Remarks on a species of Loranthus; and Measurements of Tree Ferns in Australia

Mr Thomas Cannan

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table to see the little attention paid to the cultivation of the olive.

The law regulating the sale of oil is as simple as it is primitive—payment on delivery. But there is a kind of gambling transaction, which is rather singular, and perhaps original. Two men will, while walking on the street, nominally buy and sell oil to a considerable amount. Thus A will purchase 500 barrels from B, at 48s., to be settled on a given day, say the last day of the month. On that day, the price of oil is 50s. per barrel, consequently B forfeits 2s. per barrel, and A gains £50. Thousands of barrels of oil are thus nominally bought and sold in this island. The estimated value of this year's crop is as yet unknown, but it will in all probability exceed 1,000,000 dollars. The export duty, which is heavy ($19\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.), will greatly assist our impoverished exchequer. To Liverpool merchants, and others connected with the Ionian oil trade, the above may be of some use.

IV. *Remarks on a species of Loranthus ; and Measurements of Tree Ferns in Australia.* By Mr THOMAS CANNAN.
Communicated by Professor BALFOUR.

Dr Balfour stated that Mr Cannan had sent seeds of a parasitic species of *Loranthus*. The seeds are attached to branches, and are in different states. Some of them are beginning to germinate. The plant is said to produce showy flowers, and to grow on almost any tree with a smooth bark. It grows well on some of the trees introduced into Melbourne gardens, such as the English oak and elm, and the common laburnum. It attaches itself to the native *Eucalypti*, and is propagated by means of birds, which scatter the seeds.

Mr Cannan also sends the following measurements of Tree Ferns met with during his Australian rambles :—

No. 1.—From the ground to the top of some upright fronds, 18 feet; from the ground to the crown, clean stem, 13 feet; girth at the bottom of the stem, 8 feet; girth $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet from the ground, $4\frac{1}{4}$ feet; length of fronds, 10 to 12 feet. About half-way from the ground this plant is divided into two stems, each stem supporting a beautiful head.

No. 2—Length of clean stem, 18 feet; girth at the bottom, 7 feet; girth 5 feet from the ground, $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet; length of fronds, 5 feet.

No. 3—Clean stem, from the ground to the crown, 20 feet; divides into two stems, one measuring 11, and the other 8 feet; girth where the stem divides, 5 feet; length of fronds, 6 feet.

No. 4—Length of stem, 20 feet; girth at bottom, 6 feet; girth 6 feet from the ground, 4 feet; length of frond, 5 to 6 feet.

Mr Cannan describes the Botanic Garden of Melbourne as extending to 60 acres, including 18 acres of lagoon. The garden is partly bounded by the River Yarra.

V. *Notice of Plants collected in the Isle of Skye.* By Dr JOHN ALEXANDER SMITH and Dr GILCHRIST. Communicated by Dr GEORGE LAWSON.

Dr Smith, while residing at Armadale Castle, Skye, in October and November last, observed a few interesting plants in the neighbourhood: *Sticta pulmonaria* was in great abundance, and in fine fruit, on the trees; and other lichens and ferns were collected. *Himanthalia lorea* formed large patches on the rocks along the shore; and Dr Smith presented to the Herbarium specimens showing the various stages of growth.

Dr Gilchrist visited the Cuchullin Hills, Skye, in company with Dr Lindsay in 1855, and collected many interesting mosses of the genera *Andræa*, *Bryum*, *Splachnum*, &c., specimens of which were shown. Specimens of *Andræa nivalis* from Ben Nevis were also exhibited.

11th March 1858.—Professor BALFOUR, V.P., in the Chair.

The following candidate was balloted for and duly elected:—

As Ordinary Resident Fellow.

J. G. BOOTH jun., Esq., 4 Hermitage Place, Leith.

A copy of Mr Howie's "Musci Fifenses" (containing excellent specimens of the Mosses of Fife), having been