I. Observations on some hitherto undescribed Plants from New Zealand

Dr Ferdinand Mueller

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9th May 1861.—Dr W. H. LOWE, President, in the Chair.

The following Gentleman was elected a Non-Resident Member :—

WILLIAM COLDSTREAM, Esq., B.A., 51 York Place.

The following additions to the University Herbarium were noticed :—

Collection of Dried Specimens, consisting of from 600 to 700 species, from the Ecuador district, South America,—Collected by Mr R. Spruce.

Parcel of Andes Plants.—From Professor Jameson, Quito.

Parcel of Jersey Plants.—From J. C. Naylor, Esq.

The following Donations to the Society's Library were announced :—

Proceedings of the Horticultural Society, London, Vol. I., Nos. 4 to 24.—From the Society.

Second Annual Report of the Cooper Union, New York.—From the Union.

The following Donations to the Museum of Economic Botany at the Botanic Garden were noticed :—

From Mr Robert Brown, Madras Horticultural Garden—Pods of *Poinciana regia* (dark variety).

From Messrs P. Lawson & Son—Sections of the lower part of the trunk of *Pinus Laricio*, or Corsican Pine. The tree from which the sections were taken was grown at Holkham Hall, Norfolk, and thirty years old. It was blown down in October last, in consequence of its roots being cramped in their development from early "pot culture," and their not being spread out when planted.

From a Visitor—Paper Models of plants of Primrose and Auricula.

The following Communications were read :—

- I. *Observations on some hitherto undescribed Plants from New Zealand.* By Dr FERDINAND MUELLER, Melbourne. Communicated by Professor BALFOUR.

Amongst a considerable number of living plants forwarded by Th. H. Hulke, Esq. from the vicinity of New Plymouth, to the Botanic Garden of

Melbourne, and also in a fine collection of dried botanical specimens, which the Melbourne Phytological Museum owes to the zeal and liberality of Julius Haast, Esq. of Nelson, I had the gratification of observing several plants which appear to me novel and deserving special notice. In making these plants known through the medium of the Edinburgh Botanical Society, I avail myself of the opportunity thus afforded of publicly recording the services rendered by their discoverers in promoting our knowledge of the New Zealand Flora, the foundation of which has been so well laid by Dr J. D. Hooker, in the justly celebrated *Flora Novæ Zealandiæ*. Whilst the misfortune of one of the above gentlemen, who saw in the northern island a flourishing estate and garden establishment annihilated by the hordes now waging war against British sovereignty, calls for our deep sympathy; we cannot but with the utmost pleasure turn to the southern or middle island, where, under the shelter of peace, an ardent geographical and geological explorer finds leisure and exhibits a desire to bring within the range of his observation forms of vegetation which are yet replete with novelty.

Veronica Hulkeana.—Shrubby; branches very finely downy, cylindrical; leaves opposite, subcoriaceous, rather distant, long-stalked, subcordate-ovate, coarsely and almost doubly crenate-serrate, soon glabrous; spikes distant, terminal, simply paniculate; bracteoles deltoid-ovate, shorter than the calyx, as well as the ovate lobes of the latter ciliolate; corolla glabrous; its lobes considerably longer than the tube; capsule obovate-roundish, turgid; seeds few, curved-ellipsoid. In mountain-forests towards New Plymouth.—Th. H. HULKE, Esq.

The specimen cultivated in the Melbourne Botanic Garden forms a small shrub. Leaves generally from 1" to 1½" long, shining on both surfaces, paler beneath, strongly one-nerved, with thin pinnately spreading veins. Spikes many, opposite, usually with conspicuous special peduncles, 1" to 1½" long; the lowest supported by a diminutive leaf. Segments of the calyx almost equal, nearly 1" long. Corolla about 2½" long; three of its lobes rhomboid-orbicular, the fourth orbicular ovate. Anthers ovate, with bilobed bases about ½" long. Style capillary, hardly longer than 2". Stigma minutely bilobed. Capsule not seen in a matured state; already, when young, somewhat longer than the calyx.

Gingidium Haastii (sect. *Aciphylla*).—Stem erect; vaginæ blunt; radical leaves long-stalked, in circumference rhomboid-ovate, tripinnate-sect, plurijugate; general and special rachis jointed; pinnæ plurijugate; segments small, crowded, narrowly lanceolate-linear, almost flat, acute, entire, pellucidly one-nerved, without streaks, veinless, terminated by a short capillary bristle; peduncles, with exception of the base, leafless; general involucre few-leaved; leaflets of the involucre several, shorter than the umbellula, as well as those of the involucre linear and acuminate; styles capillary, rather long, finally recurved; fruits short-pedicelled, oblong, more attenuated upwards; mericarps usually equal, each acutely five-ribbed.

On the subalpine summit of the "Black Hill," the middle island of New Zealand, at an elevation from 4000 to 4500 feet.—JULIUS HAAST, Esq.

This species differs from *Gingidium procumbens* (F. M. Fragm. *Phytogr. Austr.* i., 15; Jos. Hook. *Flor. Tasm.* ii., 363), in erect taller growth, larger, much more divided leaves, more elongated and slender styles, and longer fruits. *G. antipodum* and several other allied species differ in the want of the bristles, which terminate the lobes of the leaves in *G. Haastii*.

Senecio Traversii.—Herbaceous, perennial, stemless; leaves radical, ovate-oblong, on elongated downy petioles, blunt at the base and apex,

slightly crenulated, emitting a stalked gland from between each notch, above sparingly hispid from short rigid hairs, beneath finely downy, and when old glabrescent; scape hardly extending beyond the leaves, as well as the petioles, clothed with an imperfect toment and with scattered articulated hairs, bearing a few remote broad-linear bracts and two flowers; special peduncles longer than the flowerhead, provided with a few linear tomentose bracteoles; involucre almost campanulate, outside glandulous and hispidulous downy, consisting of 10 to 12 scales, not sphacelate at the apex, with exceedingly few bracteoles at the base; discal flowers somewhat longer than the involucre; ligules 11 to 13, their lamina oblong-linear, longer than the involucre; anthers exserted; achenes glabrous.

Alps, near Nelson—Julius Haast, Esq. The only specimen seen by me is about a span high. Petioles emerging from a long soft tomentum, nearly as long as the leaves. The latter herbaceous, 3' to 4' long; their mid-rib, lateral nerves, and netted veins, more conspicuous beneath. Bracts less than 1' long. Scales of the flower-bearing involucre about 2½" long, green. Ligules usually three-toothed. Corollæ of disk hardly longer than 2". Setæ of pappus white, forming several rows, slightly scabrous, at least in a young state not quite so long as the corresponding corolla. Achenia, before being perfectly ripe, 1" long.

This very distinct species is allied to *S. primulifolius* (F. M. in *Transact. Vict. Inst.* ii., 69; *J. Hook. Flor. Tasm.* ii., 365). We have distinguished it with the name of the Honourable Judge Travers of Nelson, an acute and zealous observer of the New Zealand Flora.

Dr Mueller has requested me to add a note to the above descriptions, expressing my belief that they refer to hitherto undescribed species.

Jos. D. HOOKER.

Kew, April 20, 1861.

II. Notes upon the Coco-Nut Tree and its Uses. By HUGH CLEGHORN, M.D.

It seems needless to bring under notice the many useful purposes to which Palms are applied, the high position which the tribe holds in the vegetable kingdom, and the peculiar Oriental character they give to the landscape. The majestic character of the palm, its gigantic foliage, and its economical importance, are facts familiar to all; and of the coco-nut and palmyra trees especially, it may with truth be said, that there is scarcely a single part of them which is not applied to some particular purpose. In India, we are readily convinced of this; for we can scarcely look abroad without observing some use or other made by the ingenious native, of the foliage, the fruit, or the stem of these wonderful plants. We see the leaves rendered serviceable for thatch, screens, baskets, and mat-work, and as a material to write upon; we see the fibrous coating of the fruit twisted into the pliant and durable coir rope, and used for stuffing mattresses; we are indebted to the