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IV. On the Palms of the Feejee Islands

Mr William Milne

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parts where the current ran less rapidly, its aerial fronds with their narrow revolute segments rising aslant above the surface, while the natant leaves spread out their broad segments a little beneath, being submersed rather than natant. What is novel in it to me is its mode of multiplication, the species being propagated not by the usual spores, but by axillary and occasionally marginal buds becoming perfect plants on the parent frond. The pressed portions inclosed exhibit the two forms the fronds assume, on one of which the little marsupials are shown in various stages of growth. A minute roundish leaf is the first produced, others following with gradually increasing dimensions, but of the same form, till a genuine frond is unrolled, the little plant having in the meanwhile shot out several roots vertically into the water, and laterally along the surface of the parent segments. The aerial fronds of this plant are much divided into narrow segments, which have their margins rolled back upon themselves, so as to make them look narrower still. The segments of the submersed leaves are broad. The embryo plants thrive equally well with their leaves above or below water, and separation takes place only by the decay of the mother frond."

The aquatic fern referred to by Mr Thomson is *Ceratopteris thalictroides*, (Brongn.) It is found in the tropical parts of the Old and New World, and has been figured in Hooker's "Exotic Flora." Its viviparous character is well known. The specimens sent are very characteristic. An *Asplenium* sent by Mr Thomson is not easily determined. It is possibly only a form of *A. Trichomanes*. In the Grevillean Herbarium, there is a fern from New Holland very much resembling it, but unnamed. The rhizomatous fern of Mr Thomson is a *Davallia*, probably a form of *D. Canariensis*. In many respects it resembles *D. bullata*, which is found in Assam and Nepaul, as well as *D. pyxidata* of the southern hemisphere. The segments of the frond are rather broader and longer than those of the ordinary form of *D. Canariensis*.

IV. *On the Palms of the Feejee Islands.* By Mr WILLIAM MILNE. Communicated by Professor BALFOUR.

Mr Milne stated that after the departure of the Herald for Sydney on 28th October 1856, he examined the palms of the Feejee Islands, and the following are those which he observed:—1. *Cocos integrifolia*. 2. Dwarf Coco-nut Palm, which seldom exceeds 12 feet in height. 3 and 4. Two species of *Areca*. He also noticed several forking varieties of palms as occurring on the islands.

V. *On the Indian Woods that have been tried for Engraving.* By ALEXANDER HUNTER, M.D., Madras.

It may interest the Society to know that the results of the experiments commenced in the School of Arts at Madras in 1858, to improve the illustration of the literature of India, attracted considerable attention in London, Edinburgh, and Glasgow, where specimens of the woods and of the engravings upon them were exhibited. For several years the attempts were very feeble and indifferent, although much on a par with the early efforts at illustration in England about sixty years ago. Rewards were offered for the best kinds of wood produced, and the following were the results:—

The Guava (*Psidium pyrifera*) was found to be close-grained and moderately hard, with a thin bark and pretty uniform texture of both the