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VI. Notes on the Cultivation of Cinchona and Rhea in India

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The *Biota cristata* which was received from America some years ago, after a fine summer shows more of the brown winter colouring than any other American variety known to me.

The same remarks hold good with several species of New Zealand conifers, cultivated under glass, such as the *Dacrydium cupressinum* and the *Dacrydium Franklinii*. In general both these species take on a reddish-brown tint during the winter months; but this year the *Dacrydium cupressinum*, although slightly browned in the conservatory, is nothing when compared with the dark tints of former years, while no perceptible difference is this year observable on the plants of *Dacrydium Franklinii*, whether growing in the conservatory or in the open air. Numerous other examples might be quoted, but sufficient have been given to direct attention to this subject, and to elicit further observation.

VI. *Notes on the Cultivation of Cinchona and Rhea in India.*

By WILLIAM JAMESON, Esq., Saharunpore. Communicated by Professor BALFOUR.

Mr Jameson writes (8th July 1872):—We are now carrying on extensive operations with *Cinchona* in the Himalaya; our success, however, is most doubtful. We have had plants 8 and 10 feet in height, but all have been cut down by the frost. The result, therefore, will, I fear, be a failure. A private company has spent upwards of L.4000, and has at last abandoned the undertaking. Government operations have been conducted on a small scale, but sufficiently large for experimental purposes. The loss will, therefore, not be great. In the Dhoons and lower Himalayas, in Kumaon, Gurhwal and Kohistan of the Punjab, the thermometer (Fahrenheit) frequently marks six to eight degrees below the freezing point, at altitudes of 2500 and 3000 feet. This cold we have to contend with. At Rani Khet, the new military station in Kumaon, altitude about 6000 feet, there were some plants of the *Cinchona succirubra* 4 to 5 feet in height, when I visited the station in October last. In January a heavy fall of snow took place, and all the plants, though covered

with matting, perished. In the Kangra Valley, Deyrah Dhoon, Chefouri, and Mussouri, most of the plants have met with a similar fate. In the Neilgherries, Sikkim, &c., several species of *Cinchona* are doing well, and in Sikkim alone the plantations are supposed to contain half a million of plants. Land, too, fitted for their cultivation abounds. For the Kohistan and Dhoons of the north-west provinces and Punjab Tea will be the great export staple, most of the plantations in Kumaon, Gurhwal, Deyrah Dhoon, and Kangra are progressing in a satisfactory manner, particularly those that have been prudently conducted, and a large export trade of tea is springing up between British India and Central Asia. The demand, however, is chiefly confined to green teas, for which fair prices are realised, viz.—No. 1, 2s., and No. 2, 1s. 6d. per lb. This amount is paid at the factory by traders who visit the plantations and purchase the teas. The experiments connected with the Rhea plant (*Boehmeria nivea*) progress. A most ingenious machine, invented and patented by Mr J. Greig, junior, of Bombay, and constructed by Messrs D. and J. Greig, Fountain Bridge, Edinburgh, is now here, and about to be tested; Colonel Hyde, Mint Master, and Mr Prince, Superintendent Roorkee Workshops, having been appointed judges to report upon it, and any other machines that may be presented to compete for the L,5000 prize. From my Rhea plantation I have already cut down about 100 tons of stems, *i.e.*, about 3 tons per acre, and in another month I expect to get another and heavier crop. It is a wonderful plant, and will, I am confident, be more valuable to the North-West provinces than “jute” is to Bengal. As soon as we get a complete machine, the fibre will become one of the great staples of North-Western India. Among other machines, we have been experimenting with a Roez’s machine, which, though simple, is dangerous in working. By it a poor young Mahomedan lad had both his hands smashed, rendering amputation above the wrists necessary.