XX. A technical description of Chloraster, a new genus of Narcisseæ

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stituting for the angles $A B C$ their relations to the right angle, the equation $C = \theta(A B c)$ is an equation entirely between numbers, and consequently the number c cannot be excluded.

2dly. If the side c is excluded from the equation $C = \theta(A B c)$, then in this equation we have $c = 0$; but when $c = 0$, then $A = 0$, $B = 0$, $C = 0$, then $0 = \theta(0, 0 \cdot 0)$. Here the reasoning fails altogether.

Finally: M. Legendre asserts that the side c is of a nature heterogeneous to the angles A and B . Now the number of degrees in the angles of any plane triangle is determined by the circumferences of the circles of which the angular points are the centres. I have demonstrated elsewhere, that $\frac{N}{y} h = T$ is the equation of the tangent straight line to any curve; N being the normal, y the ordinate, and h any arbitrary increase or decrease of the abscissa; and that it is homogeneous to the equation which determines the length of the arc. Therefore the circumference of a circle and the side of a plane triangle are homogeneous quantities.

When we have to demonstrate a general property which necessarily involves in it notions of infinity, we must rest the demonstration as a postulate which must involve notions of infinity. The difficulty encountered in this theory of parallel straight lines, arises therefore from the constitution of the human mind, and cannot be overcome.

“Men learn the elements of science from others: and every learner hath a deference more or less to authority, especially the young learners, few of that kind caring to dwell long upon principles, but inclined rather to take them upon trust. And things early admitted by repetition become familiar. And this familiarity at length passeth for evidence. Now to me it seems there are certain points tacitly admitted by mathematicians, which are neither evident nor true. And such points or principles ever mixing with their reasonings, do lead them into paradoxes and perplexities.”—(*Berkeley, Defence of Free Thinking in Mathematics*, sec. 21.)

JOHN WALSH.

XX. *A technical Description of Chloraster, a new Genus of Narcisseæ.* By A. H. HAWORTH, Esq. F.L.S. &c.

To the Editors of the *Philosophical Magazine and Journal*.

Gentlemen,

ALLOW me to reply to E. E. in page 7 of your Miscellany for January last, and to say that the account of the two *Narcisseæ* there mentioned was published in the Botanical Register

Register for the month of January 1824; consequently *after* you had published my descriptions in p. 440 of your December Magazine: but a figure of one of them, or a plant allied to them, without name, appeared in the Register for the month of December, which however, without dissection or description, could not be determined. Old Parkinson, in his way, enumerates six species.

As to the names of these plants, I never heard of or saw either of them until they were published as above in January.

And with respect to these plants forming a good genus, I have no fear on that score, nor even of the admissibility (into the classic group to which it belongs) of the name *Diomedes*; because *Diomedeæ* is one syllable longer, and because many generic names are now in print which differ in gender only: and even these must pass* in the vast sciences of natural history, where such inconceivable numbers of generic and subgeneric appellations are wanted; not fewer than ten thousand of which will be occupied by Entomology alone!

As the above is but a very meagre communication, gentlemen, I will endeavour to make it more worthy of your attention, by subjoining to it a botanical description of what I consider to be another new genus of *Narcisseæ*, of two species, and which, from its remarkable green starry flowers, I call *Chloraster*, and remain

Your most obedient servant,

Queen's Elm, Chelsea, Feb. 9, 1824.

A. H. HAWORTH.

CHLORASTER. *Narcissus auctorum*.

Spatha 1—pluriflora. *Corollæ* laciniæ lineares in gracillimam stellam patentés. *Corona* minima, integra, vel hexapetalo-partita, singulis partibus incurvatim cochleatis incrassatis. *Filamenta* omnino tubo adnata, 3, tubo breviora, 3 ejus longitudine.

Herbæ submaritimæ Africanæ bulbosæ nudifloræ unifoliæ, viridibus floribus autumnalibus, Jonquillarum habitu odoreque, alio modo florendi.

Specierum Characteres.

fissus. CHL. (The cloven-cupped) coronâ hexapetaloideâ.

1. *Narcissus viridiflorus*. *Bot. Mag.* l. 1687.

Descriptio. Gracilis omni parte. *Scapus* dodrantalis aliquantillum compressus basi crassitie calami corvini

* Surely they might and ought to be avoided, as names may be varied *ad infinitum*.—EDIT.

lævigatus lucens cærulescenti-viridis. *Spatha* in nostro vivo exemplari uniflora (an semper?) vix uncialis erecta striatula valde marcescens subferruginea. *Pedunculus* 2-uncialis erectus parum angulatus. *Germen* (ratione magnitudinis plantæ) magnum grossè ovale obtusissimè trigonum. *Tubus* vix uncialis teres lævis sordidè prasino-viridulus. *Corollæ laciniæ* loratæ 8-lineares acutæ lineam latæ basi distinctæ tubi colore stellato-semireflexæ. *Corona* primulina sexpartita (quasi hexapetala) singulis partibus incrassatis erecto-incurvulis sive concavo-cochleariformibus rotundo-obovatis laciniis corollæ concoloribus at septies brevioribus. *Filamenta* omnia omninò tubo connata, tria tubo 2 lineas breviora, tria longitudine tubi. *Antheræ* (defloratæ in nostro) erectæ grossè ovales sive ellipticæ sulcatæ luteæ, tres tubo altè inclusæ harum media aliquantillum altior, tres e tubo paululum prægredientes præcipuè harum ultimarum media. *Germen* (florendi tempore) habet semina varia incipientia, alba at majuscula. *Stylus* gracilis teres viridis antherarum altitudine, *stigmatibus* in lente tribus horum duobus (in nostro) incompletis. *Folium* solitarium in singulo bulbo non vidi; at secundum auctores, scapo omninò conforme, at solum post florescentiam viget. *Floret* (in nostro exemplari) in Decembre. *Habitat* in Barbariæ maritimis.

integer. CHL. (The entire-cupped) spathâ 2-3-florâ, coronâ

2. integrâ. Narcissus Juncifolius autumnalis flore viridi. Park. Parad. 94. 11. t. 93. f. 6.

Hanc plantam non vidi, et fidelis Parkinsoni fide solum admisi. A priore differt coronâ integrâ nec hexapetalo-partitâ. *Habitat* in Barbariâ. *Parkinson* in loco. *Floret* Octob. ibid.

P.S. It is apprehended that as both the above described plants have green flowers, no apology is necessary for relinquishing the specific name of *viridiflorus* for the former, as names which have any tendency to mislead or delude, are ever objectionable, and the green flowers are common to both.