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Professor Balfour & Mr Bell

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appear to treat the subject from a totally different standpoint from mine, I have nothing to remark regarding their elaborate memoirs further than to recommend their general accuracy and the painstaking work displayed in them.

II. *On the Distribution of Forests in North-West America, with Notes on the Deciduous Trees and Shrubs.* By ROBERT BROWN, F.R.G.S., &c.

[This paper will form a portion of the author's "Horæ Sylvanæ," now in course of publication. An abstract of the general conclusions is given in the foregoing paper, as well as in "Die Wälder im Nordwestlichen Amerika," in Petermann's "Geographische Mittheilungen," 1860, p. 308.]

III. *Notes of an Excursion to Clova in April 1869.* By Professor BALFOUR and Mr BELL. Communicated by Professor BALFOUR.

Dr Balfour stated that as the Highland mountains were seldom visited by botanists in spring, he thought that it might be useful to take an excursion to Clova before the commencement of the summer session. Accordingly, on the 22d April last, he, along with one of his sons and Mr William Bell, started for Kirriemuir. They were conveyed by dogcart from Kirriemuir to Clova, and took up their quarters at the Ogilvy Arms Hotel, now kept by Mr James Alexander, where they were comfortably accommodated. On the day of their arrival they paid a visit to Loch Brandy and the rocks in its vicinity. There were few flowering plants to be seen. Those noticed were *Saxifraga oppositifolia* in full flower, *Eriophorum vaginatum* and *Luzula campestris* (small form). Many good mosses, however, were met with, such as *Mnium subglobosum*, *M. cinclidioides*, *Bryum duvalii*, *Splachnum sphæricum*, *Hypnum molle*, *Fontinalis squamosa*, &c. On the 23d they paid a visit to Glen Fee, and collected the following species:—*Arctostaphylos Uva-ursi*, *Vaccinium Vitis-Idæa*, *Pyrola media*, *Empetrum nigrum*, *Viola sylvatica*, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Eriophorum angustifolium*, *Draba incana*, *D. verna*, *Caltha palustris*, *Lycopodium clavatum*, *alpinum*, *Selago*, *selaginoides*, and *Woodsia hyperborea*. They met also with old specimens of *Oxytropis campestris*, and a great number of cryptogam-

ous plants, especially mosses in fruit, including *Trichostomum glaucescens* and *Encalypta rhaptocarpa*. The day was remarkably fine, and the views from the hills were extensive. Snow was lying in large quantity on all the hills. On the 24th they proceeded to Loch Wharral, and examined the rocks round the loch. Here *Saxifraga oppositifolia* adorned the rocks with its gorgeous pink blossoms. From Loch Wharral the party passed along the top of the mountains to Loch Brandy and the corrie beyond it, collecting by the way *Azalea procumbens*, some willows coming into flower, and several good mosses. They examined the land-slip which has been taking place gradually in the mountain range to the east of Loch Brandy. The rent at the summit is becoming more extensive, and ere long there may be an enormous rupture of the rocks, which by their fall will fill up a large portion of the loch. The chasm at the summit was filled with snow. Monday, the 26th, was one of the brightest days experienced, and the snow patches of the hills shone beautifully in the sun. They visited Bachnagairn, a shooting-lodge in Glen Esk, and examined the mountains around. The same plants were gathered as on the previous days; but Mr Bell was enabled to add to the list of mosses *Bryum intermedium*, *B. torquescens*, *Hypnum flagellare*, *H. elegans*, *Cylindrothecium Montagnei*, *Grimmia unicolor*, &c.

*The following is the List of Mosses collected, as drawn up by
Mr Bell.*

Andræa rupestris, Rothii, alpina.
Bryum acuminatum, alpinum, bimum, carneum, crudum, elongatum, intermedium, julaceum *var.* concinnatum, pallens, torquescens, ventricosum, several *vars.*
Cylindrothecium Montagnei.
Dicranodontium longirostre.
Dicranum Blythii, heteromallum, longifolium, polycarpum, squarrosum, Starkii.
Encalypta rhaptocarpa.
Fissidens adiantoides, osmundoides.
Fontinalis squamosa.
Grimmia Doniana, spiralis, torta, unicolor.
Gymnostomum curvirostrum.
Hypnum aduncum, catenatum, cupressiforme (*vars.* cupressum, lacunosum, and minus), denticulatum, elegans, filicinum, fluitans *var.* stenophyllum, and other *vars.*, molle, molluscum *var.*

croceum, ochraceum, palustre several *vars.*, pulchellum, revolvens, sarmentosum, scorpioides, sylvaticum, uncinatum, *var.*
Mnium cinclidioides, subglobosum.
Orthotrichum Bruchii, rupestre.
Pogonatum aloides var. minus.
Polytrichum juniperinum var. gracile.
Rhabdoweissia fugax.
Schistidium apocarpum vars. rivulare and *gracile*.
Sphagnum compactum, plumosum.
Splachnum sphaericum.
Trichostomum glaucescens, mutabile, tophaceum.
Weissia cirrhata.

IV. *Notes of Vegetable Products used as Food during the late Famine in Rajpootana.* By Dr G. KING, Indian Service. Communicated by Professor DICKIE.

The following plants were noted, and products shown:—

1. *Acacia leucophlæa*, Roxb.—The bark reduced to rough powder, and made into cakes.
2. Unexpanded capsules of *Tribulus lanuginosus*, L. (N. O., *Zygophyllaceæ*).—Used in same form as No. 1.
3. Seeds of *Achyranthus aspera*, W.
4. *Sesamum indicum*, W.—Refuse of seed after extraction of the oil. Stored by Marwar merchants during plenty, and sold at a high price during famine.
5. Seeds of a species of *Eleusine*.
6. Seeds of various *Cucurbitaceæ*, pumpkin, &c.
7. *Hymenochaete grossa*, Nees.

Specimens of the prepared food and seeds were presented to the Museum.

V. *On the Scarcity of Wood suitable for Railway Sleepers in India.* Communicated by Dr RICHARDSON.

The Great Indian Peninsular Railway Company has commenced the importation of sleepers from Australia. The variety of timber fixed upon for this traffic is the “jarrah wood,” which is said to be excellently adapted for laying the permanent road of railways. If that be found the case, we shall probably see a new and considerable trade springing up between the Australian continent and India. The Peninsula has little as yet except the main lines of her