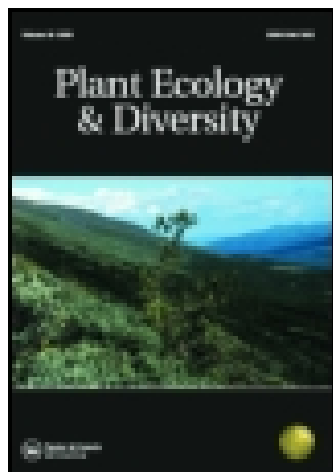


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III. Notice of the Plants of Mount Olympus. With an Account of the Ascent of the Mountain and Observations on the Country near Broussa

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W. Jameson, Esq., Saharunpore, per Professor Christison—*Bdellium*, the produce of *Amyris Agallocha*.

W. Gorrie, Esq., Prestonhall—Canadian or Swamp Rice of America, *Zizania aquatica* ; along with Ergot produced on it.

D. P. MacLagan, Esq.—Specimens of Peccau nuts, the produce of *Carya olivæformis*.

The following papers were read :—

I. *Notes of a Botanical Excursion to Switzerland and other parts of the Continent during last summer.* By Robert M. STARK.

II. *List of Plants observed in the neighbourhood of Blackford, Perthshire.* By ALEXANDER BUCHAN.

After detailing the physical peculiarities of the district, embracing a circuit of four miles around Blackford, Mr Buchan gave a full list of the plants which he had observed, including *Trollius europæus*, *Corydalis claviculata*, *Viola palustris*, *Silene maritima*, *Radiola Millegrana*, *Genista anglica*, *Spiræa salicifolia*, *Rubus saxatilis*, *Epilobium angustifolium* and *alsinifolium*, *Circeæ lutetiana* and *alpina*, *Montia fontana*, *Sedum anglicum*, *Saxifraga stellaris*, *oppositifolia*, and *hypnoides*, *Meum athamanticum*, *Thrinicia hirta*, *Utricularia minor*, *Listera Nidus-Avis*, *Poa Balfourii*, *Hymenophyllum Wilsoni*, and other interesting plants.

III. *Notice of the Plants of Mount Olympus.* By Dr JOHN KIRK. *With an account of the Ascent of the Mountain, and Observations on the Country near Broussa.* By Dr DAVID CHRISTISON.

Dr Christison observed :—"Mount Olympus of Asia Minor, although fully seventy miles from Constantinople, is a very constant object in the landscape,—thanks to the clear Eastern atmosphere—and forms the boundary of the magnificent view from that city towards the south. From Constantinople it presents the appearance of a long ridge, without any great variety of outline ; and probably all the year round shows a considerable quantity of snow, although travellers who talk of its summits clothed in perpetual snow must not be understood literally, as our party ascended to

the top without ever treading on snow unless from choice ; and this in the end of June, before the greatest summer heat had commenced. The altitude of the mountain, moreover, does not bring it within the limit of perpetual snow. This is stated variously in different maps ; but, according to Marshal Marmont, by the temperature of boiling water it is nearly 7400 feet."

Dr Christison and his party went by steam from Stamboul to Mandanich, situated on the south side of the Gulf of Gimleck. Thence they proceeded to Broussa, passing through a fertile valley with vineyards and mulberry plantations, and well wooded, chiefly with olives. They then ascended a hill, where a fine view was obtained, and finally descended to the plain of Broussa, at which place they took up their quarters. Dr Christison observed, "that nothing could be more beautiful than the situation of Broussa. Mount Olympus, the Keshish Dagħ or Holy Mountain of the Turks, here descends by a long steep uniform slope directly on the plain, much in the fashion of the south side of our own Ochils, though on a far grander scale. At the very foot of this the city extends for two and a-half or three miles, with a varying breadth of from that of a single street to perhaps half a mile. In front of it is a belt of vineyards, mulberries, and fields interspersed with trees, among which sycamores, chesnuts, figs, walnuts, and olives are most common. This belt is a mile or more in width, and then comes the plain proper, which is quite open, beautifully green at this season (June), with groups of trees, having much the appearance of an English park. Finally, the plain is bounded by the fine range of hills separating it from the sea. A plateau of travestine, elevated about one hundred feet, projects from the flank of Olympus over the town, and is ornamented with mosques and villas, under the extensive ruins of old fortifications. The luxuriance of vegetation, the fresh greenness of the foliage, and the noise and sight of running water in every part of the city, make it a delightful contrast to the dry parched aspect of Constantinople and its surrounding country, which, with the exception of the immediate shores of the Bosphorus, and a few valleys leading to it, is about the dullest and most forbidding country I have seen. Unfortunately, this beautiful city has been nearly ruined

by an earthquake; and, considering the indolence of the Turks, it may be doubted if it will ever recover. During February and March shocks occurred almost daily; and, indeed, at the period of our visit in June, they had not ceased, as we felt two very distinct shocks one night when we had lain down to sleep on Mount Olympus. Each was preceded by a dull rumbling noise like that of a railway train crossing a wooden bridge at some distance, immediately followed by a sharp shake; the sound and the shake only lasting a few seconds."

Dr Christison describes the ascent of Olympus, or the Keshish Dagħ :—"The ascent of the Keshish Dagħ presents no difficulty, and may be accomplished from Broussa on horseback, or even on foot by a first-rate pedestrian, in one long day. The first part of the ascent consists in climbing by a zig-zag path the steep slope towards the plain, by which I should think three thousand feet of elevation are gained. The path now strikes upon a long narrow valley that cuts into the mountain for about six miles, nearly in a straight line. Its sides slope very steeply and uniformly, and are completely clothed with trees of considerable size. So steep are the sides, that clambering down them would be a work of great difficulty, if not danger. The perfect silence of this wooded valley was almost oppressive. When we got to the head of this valley we had to surmount a very steep hill-face covered with pine trees, for we had gained much additional elevation during our ride up the valley, and pines were the only trees now met with. Our wretched-looking horses scrambled up this part in the most wonderful manner, and we soon found ourselves on an extensive plateau at a height of perhaps between 5000 and 6000 feet, covered with fine pasture, and bounded on the south by an extensive pine forest. We proceeded at a brisker pace for two or three miles across this plain, and then came to a shallow but rough and rocky valley, where we bivouacked for the night, at the edge of the forest. In the morning the ground was white with hoar-frost, and we felt rather cold, which was a new sensation, but the sun was very powerful even at eight A.M., when, after crossing a low intervening hill to another valley, we left our horses and commenced the ascent on foot."

The party finally reached the summit of the mountain,

and had a fine view of the country around, although the distant landscape was concealed by the mists which were gathering on the heights around. The party descended to Broussa by the same route.

Dr Kirk's list of plants gathered on Olympus showed the different heights at which the various species occur. He observed:—"In the plain of Broussa and on the slopes of the coast range of hills, the vine and olive are extensively cultivated. The white mulberry is grown all throughout the plain for the silk-worm. The peach and cherry are grown in gardens, as well as the Bamia (*Abelmoschus esculentus*), and the Aubergine (*Solanum ovigerum*), the water and sugar melon. The trees are intertwined with the wild vine, and, wherever moisture is abundant, vegetation is most luxuriant."

Dr Kirk divided the mountain into three zones, each of which presented certain peculiarities in vegetation, as illustrated by his specimens, which were as follow:—1. Plants from Broussa and the first part of Olympus. 2. The zone of forests of chesnut, silver fir, and *Pinus Pinaster*, hung with *Viscum album* and lichens, the open ground furnishing hazel, Campanulas, Althæas, and Cistuses. 3. The region of the middle plateau, mostly free of wood, and rocky. Verbascums are frequent, and grow socially. The ground is generally moist. The juniper grows abundantly. 4. The slope of the highest peak and summit plateau consisting of loose stones, the ascent being steep.

12th March 1857.—Professor BALFOUR, V.P., in the Chair.

The following donations were announced to the Society's Library and Herbarium, viz. :—

British Plants—From Mr Waddell, Cumbernauld.

Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History—From the Society.

Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, and Notice of the Origin, Progress, and present Condition of that Academy.—From the Academy.