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## Transactions of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh

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### I. Notes of a Botanical Excursion to Switzerland and other parts of the Continent during last summer

Robert M. Stark

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

The following Candidates were balloted for and duly elected :—

*As Ordinary Resident Fellows.*

CECIL A. FERNANDO, Esq., 13 Gayfield Square.

GEORGE M. REID, Esq., M.D., Edinburgh.

JOHN MONTGOMERIE BELL, Esq., East Morningside House.

JOHN DE LA CONDAMINE, Esq., 23 Broughton Place.

*As Non-Resident Fellow.*

Dr JAMES ALLAN, 52 Hanover Street, Sheffield.

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

Allgemeinen Schweizerischen Gesellschaft für der Naturwissenschaften : Verhandlungen, Jahrg, 1854.—Mittheilungen, Nos. 314-359—From the Society.

Actes de la Société Helvétique des Sciences Naturelles, 1855—From the Society.

Mémoires de la Société Impériale des Sciences Naturelles de Cherbourg, vol. 3me.—From the Society.

A collection of Arctic Plants—From Dr Dickson of Jersey.

A parcel of British duplicates, chiefly desiderata—From Mr A. G. More, Isle of Wight.

Dr Balfour stated that there had been added to the University Herbarium Dr Harvey's collection of Australian Algæ, consisting of 533 specimens.

Dr Balfour also mentioned that the following donations had been made to the Museum at the Botanic Garden :—

From the Oregon Association—Cones of *Pinus Murrayana*, *P. Monticola*, *P. Benthamiana*, *Picea nobilis*, and *Abies grandis*.

Andrew Murray, Esq.—Specimens of the following Coniferæ : *Pinus insignis*, *P. radiata*, *P. Fremontii*, *Abies bracteata*, *Cupressus macrocarpa*, and *C. Lambertiana*.

Messrs Lawson & Son—Specimens of wheat, oats, barley, rye, &c.

Sir H. Dalrymple, Bart.—Cone of *Picea nobilis*, ripened at North Berwick House in 1856.

J. F. Ziervogel, Esq.—Spoon made of wood by the Caffres.

L. P. Capewell, Esq., Ballarat, Australia—A species of *Polyporus* growing on the branches of *Eucalyptus*, usually called Punk ; another specimen of *Polyporus*, growing on the large trunks of *Eucalyptus robusta*.

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