

was thirty inches ; at two feet, eight inches—eight inches only—and at three feet, twenty-five inches. In other stunted individuals the stem appears conical, and sometimes as a bulbous expansion close to the ground.”

Mr W. H. Gosling, who forwarded flowers of the *Sabal blackburniana* to Kew, through Sir J. H. Lefroy, states, in the letter accompanying them, that there is certainly only one species of palm indigenous in the Bermudas.

Dr H. J. Hinson, who sent good specimens of flower, fruit, and leaves to Kew, was also of opinion that only one species grew wild in the islands ; in confirmation of which he sent a leaf from a young plant raised from a seed borne by an old one, of which he sent the leaves, flowers, and fruit. This leaf from the young plant had a long slender petiole. The blade of the largest leaf sent from the old tree was eight feet across, and borne on a petiole eight feet long ; and the inflorescence was five feet six inches long.

But the most remarkable fact in connection with the Bermuda palm remains to be explained : the wild specimens sent to Kew proved to belong to a species of palm of which there is evidence that it has been cultivated in England for at least 150 years, and of which, besides numerous small ones, there is a magnificent example in the palm-house at Kew, which flowers and bears fruit continuously. The origin of the cultivated palm was involved in obscurity. In 1737, a small plant of it was presented by Lord Petre to the grandfather of the Mr Blackburn after whom it was named in the periodical cited above, where there are figures and a description of it. The earliest record of its flowering in this country that we have found is 1818. Mr John Smith, ex-curator of the Royal Gardens, Kew, to whom we are indebted for so much of the history of the cultivated palm as was known, informs us that Martius saw the palm at Kew and named it *Sabal umbraculifera*, and Martius himself cites *Sabal blackburniana* as a synonym of *Sabal umbraculifera*. Whether it be really so or not, the former name, as the first under the accepted genus, is the one that should be retained. It is not, however, quite certain that it is the same. The only West Indian specimens of the Bermuda palm in the Kew Herbarium were sent by Mr Prestoe, of the Trinidad Botanic Garden, with a note to the effect that they were from cultivated trees said to be of Bermudan origin ; and it is certain that the palm described by Grisebach under the name of *Sabal umbraculifera* in the Flora of the British West Indies is not the same. In order that the species may be better understood, four plates are here devoted to the illustration of the Bermuda palm. It should be mentioned that Mr Prestoe states in a subsequent letter (1883) to Sir Joseph Hooker that if he wrote Bermuda it must have been, he thinks, a slip of the pen—Bahamas being intended ; adding that he had never sent any specimens of *Sabal umbraculifera*. But as the specimens were sent fifteen years before, Mr Prestoe may very well have forgotten the circumstance. They are the only specimens of the Bermuda palm in Kew Herbarium not from the Bermudas, if we except those cultivated at Kew. Mr Prestoe's memorandum with the specimen runs thus:—“Probably same as *Sabal umbraculifera* of Kew. Specimens collected