

appeared in such an imperfect form. A useful feature in this list is the distinction of indigenous and exotic plants, which is nowhere attempted by Burchell. Of the former category there are fifty-eight, including two or three obviously designated exotic by mistake. Besides the descriptive matter, the catalogue contains some interesting particulars of the relative frequency or rarity of a few of the species.

The naturalists of the French exploring expedition (Duperrey in "La Coquille"), 1822-1825, collected plants in St Helena; but the botany of the expedition was never completed, only the cryptogams and the grasses having been published, by Bory de St Vincent and Brongniart respectively.

Based upon Roxburgh's work, two mere lists¹ of the introduced and indigenous plants were published, but they are utterly devoid of botanical interest. A sketch of the flora appeared in Antomarchi's *Derniers Moments de Napoléon* (Paris, 1825). This we have not seen, but De Candolle, referring to the works just noticed, designates it² "la moins pitoyable des quatre Flores publiées jusqu'à présent." A fair estimate of its merits may be arrived at from the fact that forty-three species of ferns are enumerated without any indications of which are native, and so on in other orders.

Omitting the names of numerous small contributors of dried specimens of St Helena plants to Kew and the British Museum, which are cited under the plants they contributed, there is nothing of importance to note previous to 1840. In that year Dr (now Sir Joseph) Hooker, who was attached to Sir James Ross's Antarctic Expedition, had an opportunity of spending nine days on the island, and he made as complete a collection of the indigenous plants as he could at the season (Jan. and Feb.); yet he did not find one species that had not been previously collected, and several of those in the earlier collections had become so rare that he did not succeed in getting specimens. On the homeward voyage (May 1843) a few more days were spent on the island.

In 1851, H.M.S. "Herald" touched at St Helena, and Dr B. Seemann, the naturalist of the expedition, made a considerable collection of dried plants, which are at Kew.

Subsequent to the publication of his *Lecture on Insular Floras*, Sir Joseph Hooker described and figured a number of the more interesting St Helena plants,³ and since then nothing of importance has appeared except Melliss's *St Helena*.⁴ This work deals with every branch of natural history, as well as geology, meteorology, &c.; and it is a most interesting book, though, as might be expected where an author attempts so wide a range of inquiry, it is defective in some of its details. The botany is perhaps the least

¹ (1.) *Flora Santa Helenica* [Beatson], St Helena. Printed by J. Boyd, 1825.

(2.) *An Alphabetical List of Indigenous and Exotic Plants growing on the Island of St Helena*, compiled by Stephen F. Pritchard. Printed by G. J. Pike, 11 St George's Street, Cape Town, 1836.

² *Geographie Botanique*, ii. p. 1218 (1855).

³ *Hooker's Icones Plantarum*, xi. (1867-71).

⁴ *St Helena: A Physical, Historical, and Topographical Description of the Island*. By John Charles Melliss. London, 1875.