

Of the sixty-five species in the foregoing table, twenty-seven are vascular cryptogams, one of which is arboreous; and of the thirty-eight flowering plants, twenty are shrubs or small trees. The trees are all small, and some of them mere miniatures of trees; still they are called trees because they are not bushy.

With one exception, *Scirpus nodosus* (*Fimbristylis textilis*), the thirty-eight flowering plants are not only indigenous, but likewise endemic, having never been found in any other part of the world. The solitary exception has been admitted, because Roxburgh and other botanists who have visited the island have regarded it as one of the native plants. Out of twenty-seven vascular cryptogams, twelve are endemic—a proportion that is barely exceeded in an eminently fern flora like that of New Zealand.

The twenty-four probably indigenous species, or such as may have reached the island independently of human agency, are:—

*Senebiera heleniana*, *Portulaca oleracea*, *Oxalis corniculata*, *Psoralea pinnata*, *Cotula coronopifolia*, *Ipomœa biloba*, *Dichondra repens*, *Boerhaavia verticillata*, *Suæda fruticosa*, *Exomis axyrioides*, *Euphorbia*, sp., *Lemna minor*, *Juncus bufonius*, *Juncus lomatophyllus*, *Cyperus distans*, *Cyperus umbellatus*, *Cyperus lævigatus*, *Cyperus polystachyus*, *Cyperus difformis*, *Cyperus rotundus*, *Cyperus eragrostis*, *Kyllinga monocephala*, *Scirpus setaceus*, and *Sporobolus indicus*.

So far as some of the foregoing plants are concerned, the probabilities as to their being indigenous or introduced are pretty evenly balanced, while in other cases they preponderate against their being indigenous.

It has already been stated that the indigenous element of the present vegetation is now practically limited to, or at least only a prominent feature in it, high up in the Central Ridge; and this general statement needs very little qualification even if used in a more extended sense, as may be gathered from the remarks under each species. Still, in spite of the great rarity of many of the native species, fewer have disappeared altogether than might at first be supposed. By diligent search, Melliss rediscovered several that had been given up as wholly lost; and we have positive evidence of the absolute extinction of only two, namely, *Melhanian melanoxyton* and *Acalypha rubra*, though the presumptive evidence is strong as to other two—*Heliotropium pannifolium* and *Demazeria oblitera*. How many were extirpated by the goats before the flora was investigated we shall never know: it may have been considerable, but judging from the facts before us and the characteristic poverty in species of insular floras generally, we should think not. Assuming that a portion of the flora has been lost, the remnant may be regarded as a representative sample of the whole.

The following extracts from Melliss's St Helena give a good idea of the condition of the indigenous vegetation during his residence in the island down to 1875:—

“The green vegetation once seen clothing the island to the water's edge, was doubtless, with some lost species, Ebony (*Melhanian melanoxyton*), Scrubwood (*Commidendron rugosum*), *Frankenia*, *Mellessia*,