

from its embryo to its fruiting, displaying at each stage its structure.

Should the eminent botanists alluded to be of opinion that any useful steps could be taken by them in concert with the Horticultural Society for the protection of rare plants in the United Kingdom, the Council will be most happy to receive suggestions and to give them their fullest attention.

PAPERS AND LETTERS ABOVE REFERRED TO.

1. *Letter from Sir W. Jackson Hooker and others, Kew.*

Royal gardens, Kew: March 29, 1864.

Gentlemen,—The undersigned have observed with great regret that the Council of the Royal Horticultural Society have made no alteration in their announcement of prizes to be given for collections of wild British plants, which has excited so much alarm in those interested in the British Flora.

We believe that a scientific knowledge of the plants of the country, and especially of the useful or noxious ones, whether as weeds or otherwise, is of great importance to the study of Horticulture, and we have no doubt that such was the view entertained by the Council in adopting this measure; but we think that a further consideration must convince them that the forming of so many indiscriminate collections as must be the result of this competition, in which number of species will be the sole object, cannot contribute to the desired end, whilst it must result in the wholesale destruction of those rarer plants of the country which all lovers of botany desire to see in their native stations. We therefore sincerely trust that before it is too late the Council will, on reconsidering the matter, see the necessity of withdrawing their proposal.

W. J. Hooker, Director, Royal Gardens, Kew.
Joseph D. Hooker, Assistant Director, Royal Gardens, Kew.

Daniel Oliver, Keeper of the Herbarium.
J. Smith, Curator.

George Bentham, President, Linnæan Society.
Thomas Thomson, late Superintendent of Botanic Gardens, Calcutta.

To the
Council of the Royal Horticultural Society.

2. *Letters from Professor Babington and others.*

Cambridge, April 11, 1864.

Dear Sir,—I shall be obliged by your placing the inclosed Paper before the Council of the Royal Horticultural Society at its next Meeting. Copies of the printed letter were sent to me with a request that I would call the attention of some of my botanical friends to it; and, as it is in accordance with my views, I have willingly done so. Many more names might easily have been obtained if I had chosen to receive the signatures of parties who collect plants, but are not known to have much scientific knowledge of botany.

I send by book-post the forms returned, with their original signatures, by the gentlemen whose names I have added to the letter.

It has occurred to me, and several of my correspondents have suggested, that the Royal Horticultural Society might promote botanical knowledge amongst horticulturists, gardeners, and other like

persons, by offering prizes for collections of dried British plants, subject to the following or some similar regulations. (1.) That no collection contains more than 300 (three hundred) species. (2.) That the specimens be all gathered, dried, mounted on paper, localised and named by the candidate, without any help, except from the use of one of the recognised British Floras of Hooker and Arnott, Babington, or Bentham. (3.) That a declaration to this effect be made in writing by each candidate. (4.) That the judges shall not take into account the frequency or rarity of the plants, or the mere number of species; but shall award the prize to that collection which contains the greatest number (not exceeding 300) of the best preserved and most correctly named specimens.

It is thought that by thus restricting the number of species, all temptation to hunt especially for the rare plants and prevent others from getting them, will be removed: also that the prize is thus placed within the reach of persons who are unable to spend time and money in extensively traversing the country in search of specimens. Three hundred, or even a less number of plants, gathered near to their own homes, will show the botanical knowledge of a candidate quite as well as a much larger number obtained from a more extensive district.

I trust that I shall be excused for making this suggestion in the name of myself and several other botanists, whose names I do not mention, because they have not given me authority to use them in this letter. It may show that we have no desire to restrict the study of botany, or the liberality of the Royal Horticultural Society, but only wish to defend the rarer plants from dangers to which we believe the plan lately published exposes them.—I am, my dear Sir, very truly,

CHARLES BABINGTON.

To A. Murray, Esq.,

Royal Horticultural Society, London.

To the Council of the Royal Horticultural Society

Cambridge, April 11, 1864.

Gentlemen,—We beg respectfully to represent to the Council of the Royal Horticultural Society that serious injury will be caused to the native plants of England by the prizes recently offered by the Society for collections of wild specimens of English plants. But, at the same time, we desire to thank the Society for having shown a wish to promote a knowledge of scientific Botany.

The value of land, and the advanced state of agriculture consequent therefrom, has caused many wild plants to be now confined to few or even to single localities, often of small extent. It is feared that such species will be extirpated by collectors for prize herbaria, who are desirous of obtaining every plant known to grow in their county, and are greatly tempted to destroy what they do not gather, in order to prevent other candidates from finding as many species. The plants liable to be thus destroyed are mostly not such as gardeners would wish to obtain for cultivation: they possess no beauty nor interest to the common eye, but are of much value in the estimation of scientific botanists. There is scarcely a county in England in which one or more plants will not be in danger of extirpation by the collectors for these prizes. Neither will the prizes promote scientific botany amongst the class for whose benefit they are in-

tended, for there is nothing to ensure the recipient of a prize himself knowing the names or localities of the plants in his collection, or that he has examined a single botanical book, gathered any of the specimens, or even seen any of them. But supposing the case not to be so bad as this, the objection will probably apply, in some degree, to every collection sent to the Society; for no attempt is made (indeed it would be next to impossible) to ensure the collection being really formed, named, mounted and arranged by the candidate himself, without the help of other persons.

As it seems nearly certain that these prizes cannot be of much use in promoting scientific Botany, and must seriously threaten the rare, curious, and botanically interesting plants with extirpation, we venture to express our hope that the Council may be induced to withdraw them before the season has arrived for the destruction to commence.—We have the honour to be Gentlemen, your most obedient servants,

- Charles C. Babington, Prof. of Bot., Cambridge.
 Churchill Babington, B.D., F.L.S.
 C. Darwin, M.A., F.R.S.
 G. Gulliver, F.R.S.
 T. Bell, F.R.S., V.P., L.S.
 W. A. Leighton, Author of *Flora of Shropshire*.
 W. W. Newbould, M.A., F.L.S.
 G. S. Gibson, Author of *Flora of Essex*.
 W. M. Hind, M.A. of Harrow.
 M. J. Berkeley, M.A., F.L.S., Author of *British Fungology*.
 W. Matthews, Jun., M.A., of Birmingham.
 W. R. Crotch, M.A., Weston-super-Mare.
 And. Bloxam, M.A.
 Leonard Jenyns, M.A., F.L.S., Author of *Observations in Nat. Hist.*
 Z. J. Edwards, M.A., Author of *Ferns of the Az.*
 C. E. Broome, M.A., the Fungologist.
 James Backhouse, of York.
 J. Backhouse, Jun., of York.
 R. Patterson, of Belfast.
 T. A. Preston, M.A., Author of *Flora of Marlborough*.
 R. M. Lingwood, M.A., F.L.S.
 E. N. Bloomfield, M.A., Fellow of Clare College, Cambridge.
 R. K. Greville, LL.D., Author of *Flora Edinensis*.
 F. Townsend, M.A., Author of *Plants of Sicily*.
 G. E. Smith, B.A., Author of *Plants of S. Kent*.
 W. C. Trevelyan, Bart., M.A., Author of *Vegetation of Faroe*.
 W. H. Purchas, Author of MS. *Flora of Hertfordshire*.
 G. Henslow, M.A., F.L.S.
 W. Wilson, Author of *Bryologia Britannica*.
 G. Walker Arnott, Prof. of Botany, Glasgow.
 R. Kennedy, Lect. on Botany at the Andersonian Institute, Glasgow.
 W. Keddie, Lect. on Natural History at Free Church College, &c., Glasgow.
 H. W. Cockson, D.D., Master of St. Peter's College, Cambridge.
 C. Daubeny, M.D., Prof. of Botany at Oxford.
- Flaxman Spurrell, President of the West Kent Natural History Society.
 Edward Clift, Hon. Sec. West Kent Natural History Society.
 J. Jenner Weir, Hon. Sec. West Kent Natural History Society.

- R. H. Webb, Author of *Flora Hertfordensis*.
 Thos. Walker, F.R.H.S.
 Robert Bentley, Prof. of King's College, London.
 Wm. Henry Black, F.S.A., President of the Chronological Institute of London.
 James Wm. Turner, F.R.C.S. (F.R.H.S.).
 Isaac Carrol, Cork.
 Fredk. Carrey, Hon. Botanical Sec. of the Linnean Society.
 Thos. Bruges Flower, M.R.C.S., F.L.S., 7 Bonifort Buildings West, Bath.
 James Hussey, Salisbury.
 Maxwell T. Masters, M.D., Lect. Bot. St. George's Hospital.
 J. Stuart Mill.
 F. F. Ravenshaw, Pursey Rectory, Wilts, Author of *A New List of the Flowering Plants and Ferns of Devon*.
 Hewett C. Watson.
 W. H. Tugwell, 3 Lewisham Road, Greenwich.
 Walter W. Reeves, South West, Greenwich.

- C. B. Clarke, M.A., Queen's College.
 J. Clarke, M.A., Queen's College.
 W. M. Campion, B.D., Queen's College.
 Frederick Charles Warr, M.A., St. John's College.
 P. T. Mace, B.A., S.J.C.U.
 C. W. Villiers Bradford, M.A., F.I.S.
 H. J. Sharpe, M.A., St. John's College.
 G. Richardson, M.A., St. John's College.
 A. F. Torry, B.A., St. John's College.
 E. S. Dewick, St. John's College.
 F. W. Stow, B.A., Trinity College.
 Wm. H. H. Hudson, M.A., St. John's College.
 F. W. Atkey, Queen's College.
 F. A. Hanbury, B.A., Queen's College, Cambridge.
 W. P. Hiern, M.A., St. John's College.
 S. W. Churchill, St. John's College.
 Thomas York, M.A., Queen's College.
 Montagu Burnett, B.A., Queen's College.
 W. A. Hollis, B.A., Trinity College.
 John C. Sikes, B.A., Queen's College, Cambridge.
 Arthur J. Ingram, Queen's College, Cambridge.
 Henry Leighton, Queen's College, Cambridge.
 Wm. H. Spencer, B.A., Downing College.
 James Rankin, Trinity College.
 G. W. Bloxam, St. John's College.
 Harry Seeley, Sidney College.
 Edward J. Cross, Caius College.
 R. Ramsden, Trinity College.

- Elizabeth Chandler, High Wycombe, Bucks.
 James Britten, 18, Shawfield Street, Chelsea, S.W.
 Henry Gamble, 8, Shawfield Street, Chelsea, S.W.
 R. M. Bowstead, M.D., F.R.C.S., &c., High Wycombe, Bucks.
 John Sim.

- Archd. Jerdon, Tedford House, Roxburgh.
 James Hardy, Old Cambus, Cockburnspath, Berwickshire.
 D. Pringle, J.P., Witton Lodge, Roxburghshire.
 James Parlant, West U.P. Manse, Hawick.
 Jas. A. H. Murray, T.E.I.S., *Secretary Hawick Archaeological Society*.
 James Turnbull, Hawick.
 William Beaumont (Chairman of the Warrington Museum).
 W. Wilson (Author of the *Dryologia Britannica*, &c.)

Thos. G. Rylands, F.L.S. (President, Warrington Field Naturalists' Society).
 Robert Davies (Hon. Curator of Botany at Warrington Museum).
 Isaac Pictor.
 James Cooper (President Curator of Warrington Museum).
 B. Kendrick.
 John Robson, M.D.
 Samuel Walker.
 Edward Green.
 John Pears (Hon. Sec. W.F.N.S.).
 P. Knowles, Jun.
 J. Cash (Hon. Treasurer W.F.N.S.).

W. H. Harvey, M.D., F.R.S.
 W. Andrews, M.R.I.A.
 W. G. Steele, M.D.
 Robert Callum, M.R.I.A.
 Alexander Henry Haliday, A.M., F.L.S.
 E. Perceval Wright, M.D., F.L.S.
 Eugene O'Meara, A.M.
 Alexander Carte, M.D., F.L.S.
 David Moore, Ph. D., F.L.S.
 William Archer.
 A. Dixon.
 Thomas W. Gumshaw, M.B.
 Theobald Jones, F.L.S.
 I. Mahony (Clk.), A.M.
 Alex. G. More, F.L.S.
 G. Porte, M.R.I.A.
 G. W. Bennett, M.B., F.R.C.S.I.
 J. W. Wilde, M.R.I.A.
 William Frazer, M.D., F.G.S.I.
 Alex. Macalister, M.D., F.R.G.S.I.

For the Glasgow Naturalists' Society.

Roger Hernedy, President.
 Walter Galt, Vice-President.
 James A. Mahony, Secretary, 280, George Street, Glasgow.

3. Remonstrance from Botanists of Manchester.

As it appears from remarks in the 'Botanist's Chronicle,' that the Horticultural Society purpose offering prizes for collections of dried British plants, it becomes a matter for serious consideration how far such a project is calculated to act for or against the best interests of the student of our indigenous Botany.

This will doubtless depend on a variety of circumstances, especially on the number of those who may be enlisted into the pursuit by the mere sordid love of money in the form of prizes, and the mode in which the collecting of plants is carried out.

If our rarer and most valued plants are numerous sought for and indiscriminately collected, it may in many instances lead to their utter extermination. Such a result would be most deplorable to the true lover of Botany, the ardent admirer of our native productions as they appear in their various congenial localities; and it is very desirable that at this, and indeed at all times, every effort should be made to counteract and dissuade any object which, however well intended, could possibly conduce to the eradicating and total disappearance from our soil of even one of its natural productions.

We, the undersigned Botanists of Manchester and its vicinity, therefore hope that the Royal Horticultural Society of London could contrive some less objectionable scheme for encouraging local botany.

John Windsor, F.R.C.S., F.L.S., &c.
 Charles Bailey.
 John Leigh, M.R.C.S., &c.
 William Jepson, M.D.
 J. B. Wood, M.D., F.R.C.S.L., &c.

March 20, 1864.

4. Remonstrance from Botanists of Norwich.

The undersigned, Amateur Botanists of the city of Norwich and its vicinity, having seen, with regret, the announcement by the Horticultural Society of Prizes for the three best herbaria of every county in the United Kingdom, to be adjudged in December next, respectfully submit to the Council the following reasons in favour of a reconsideration of their resolution:—

That, by offering the proposed prizes, the Council will cause many persons who are not botanists to become temporary collectors of plants, merely for the sake of the value of the prizes, and not from any love of botanical science.

That, in announcing prizes for local herbaria, the Council are offering a direct inducement for the extermination of rare species in every district, as it will become the interest of each collector to destroy all specimens he does not himself require, to prevent their being found and used by his rival competitors.

That no effectual means can be taken to prevent imposition on the part of the competitors, or security be obtained that those gaining prizes have themselves collected, examined, or prepared what they exhibit, or that the specimens have really been found in the county for which they are exhibited.

That many rare plants are at the present time on the verge of extinction by unavoidable causes—such as the extension of drainage, the improvements of agriculture, and the reclaiming of waste lands, and that it is very undesirable to hasten their end by artificially stimulating the desire for mere collection of specimens.

That for the above-mentioned reasons the object of the Council, viz. the encouragement of the study of British Botany, is more likely to be frustrated than promoted by the proposed competition.

Edward Fitch, Norwich.
 C. M. Gibson, F.R.C.S., Norwich.
 W. K. Bridgman, L.D.S., R.C.S.E., Norwich.
 Hampden G. Glasspole, Ormesby, Great Yarmouth.
 Edward Gillett, M.A., Vicar of Runham, Norfolk.
 James S. Cobb, 6 Quay, Great Yarmouth.
 John A. Knight, 2 London Street, Norwich.
 John E. Taylor, F.G.S., Sub-Editor *Norwich Mercury*.
 Herbert D. Geldart, Wensum Street, Norwich.

5. Letter from J. Stuart Mill, Esq.

Blackheath Park, Kent: April 13, 1864.

Sir,—I have the honour of submitting through you to the Council of the Royal Horticultural Society a memorial from twelve botanists, accompanied by vouchers, on the subject of the prizes