

tion to describe as soon as my packages arrive from Plymouth. These, with those above described, will be deposited in the British Museum; the fish which I collected I have sent to Dr. Richardson at Haslar.

October 15, 1842.

#### XXXIV.—*Information respecting Scientific Travellers.*

MR. FORBES.

A FRIEND in Belfast informs us that he has received a letter from Mr. Forbes, dated Smyrna, H.M.S. Beacon, Sept. 9, 1842, in which he says, that the grant allocated by the British Association for dredging in the Red Sea "determines me to take Egypt on my way back, and I shall start for Alexandria soon, regulating my movements so as to be in England during the early part of January." It would seem to be time for him to try new ground, as he observes, "Though at work every day, I now so seldom get any species of the Mollusca, Radiata, or Fish which I have not already, that it seems as if I had pretty nearly got through the treasures of the Egean." He speaks of his fever having interfered sadly with his botanical hopes, but that he had previously collected in Lycia 800 species of Phænogamic plants, and remarked many interesting facts connected with a number of them, more especially with reference to their distribution. As he is silent respecting his health, it may be presumed that he was at the date of his letter perfectly recovered.

J. LINDEN.

The young Belgian naturalist and collector, J. Linden, has recently undertaken a second journey into South America, and intelligence of his present movements has been received to the date of April 1842, with an announcement of the despatch of his first consignment of dried plants. These have since arrived in the best possible condition, and contain some which are highly interesting (a large proportion of them ferns), and they are already in the hands of his subscribers. The sets contain 170 species. Additional subscribers are invited to join those who have already engaged for these plants; and, in order to judge for themselves, botanists who wish to do so can have the opportunity now of inspecting this series just distributed. Each plant is accompanied by a printed and numbered label. The price is fixed at 2*l.* per hundred plants, and there are no extra charges for expense of freight, &c., if application be made direct to M. Linden's London agent.

M. Linden writes thus:—"After many difficulties and a most protracted and stormy passage, I am at length arrived at this first stage of my intended Colombian expedition (*viz.* La Guayra). Before striking inland from the coast, I intend to investigate the chain of mountains which border these shores, profiting by the time of year (winter), this being the only season when one can with safety traverse these very unhealthy coasts."



Under date Caracas, April 28, 1842, he also writes :—" I have just sent off for you to distribute to my respected subscribers the first-fruits of my journey, viz. plants collected in the province of Caracas ; they comprise about 170 species, and will, I trust, be found to contain objects of some interest, particularly the ferns ; I hope also in tolerable condition, notwithstanding the very unfavourable season we have had, the drought having now lasted for these five months. The ferns are numerous, and I think interesting ; they are for the most part from the Silla de Caracas ; very shortly I intend to leave this province altogether, directing my steps towards the High Cordilleras which cross the provinces of Truxilla and Merida, where I shall continue my researches during the remainder of this year at least, and thence proceed into New Grenada."

It may be as well to add, that M. Linden's former collections from Southern Mexico were extremely good, and, with those who have seen them, have established his character as a first-rate collector. It is intended to enumerate these plants somewhat in the same manner as Mr. Bentham has done the plants of Hartwig, the Horticultural Society's Collector.

Mr. Bentham has devoted one of his new Mexican genera to M. Linden, *Lindenia* (a genus belonging to the *Rubiaceæ*), and some species are also described and figured in Sir W. J. Hooker's 'Icones Plantarum.'

## BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

*Histoire Naturelle des Isles Canaries.* Tome Troisième, Deuxième partie, *Plantes Cellulaires.* Par Camille Montagne, D.M.

THE Cryptogamic part of this splendid work being now complete, we are anxious, on account of its very great merit and usefulness, to give an early notice of it. The cryptogamic vegetation of the South of Europe and the Northern African isles in many respects so strongly resembles that of many parts of our own country, that any well-executed work relating to them cannot fail to be of especial interest even to those whose attention is principally confined to indigenous productions. So much care has been taken in the drawing up of the specific characters, the selection of synonyms, and the general illustration of species, that it cannot be consulted without advantage. The number of new species indeed, though considerable, by no means forms the only point of interest. In one department, that of Fungi, the materials which have been available by the author have been so scanty, consisting almost entirely of sketches, unaccompanied by notes, that curiosity is rather excited than satisfied.

The number of species of Cryptogams detected in the Canaries amounts almost to 500, but this can by no means be regarded, even exclusive of the Fungi, as anything approaching to a complete list. There is not a single *Verrucaria* or *Opegrapha* in the collection, which probably exist in considerable numbers. Of *Sphæriaceæ* there are but three species. The cryptogamic vegetation, as might be expected,





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