usculis, cirrhis trifidis, pedunculis masculis corymboso-racemosis, elongatis, femineis brevibus glomerato-capitatis, fructibus ovatis, echinatis, semine ovato basi acuto, apice obtusiusculo. *Endl. Prodr. Fl. Norf.* p. 67.—*S. angulata*. *Forst. Pr. n.* 368. *A. Rich. Fl. Nov. Zel.* p. 323, non *Linn. Icon Bauer ined. t.* 110.

Pohue, incol., *R. C.*

New Zealand (Middle Island).—1773, *G. Forster* (Northern Island). Among underwood on the sea coast, Wangaroa, &c.—1833, *Rich. Cunningham*.

[To be continued.]

XLIII.—*Information respecting Botanical Travellers.*

UNIO ITINERARIA.

Extract from Dr. Steudel's Letter, dated Aug. 24, 1838.

THE general accounts which we continue to receive respecting M. Schimper's travels in Abyssinia are very satisfactory, although the letters with which this naturalist favours us are mostly short and not so full of detail as we could desire.

Since the announcement, given by us in January last, of M. Schimper's proceedings, we have received tidings which bring down our information to the end of March, at which period he was in good health, and, together with the most favourable prognostications as to the ultimate success of his journey, he had already augmented his collection to the number of 50,000 dried specimens of plants, consisting of about 600 distinct species, many of which were new. Difficulties had recently threatened to put a stop to M. Schimper's progress. The Abyssinian priests had succeeded by their intrigues in obtaining an order from the reigning powers for the expulsion of the missionaries, hitherto so favourably received in that country, and this mandate was also to extend to every European. Our traveller having received due intimation of this measure, forthwith applied by a suitable memorial to Prince Ubie, whose patronage he particularly enjoyed, and earnestly petitioned for leave to remain in the country under the prince's special protection. This request, backed by the present of a handsome double-barrelled gun, produced the desired effect; so that M. Schimper, if he be only provided with the needful pecuniary assistance, entertains no doubt of fully accomplishing the object of his journey. In his last letter he computes that he has hardly collected one tenth of the rich Flora of Abyssinia, and that two years will probably be required to complete the collection.

Dr. Steudel is of opinion that in case the specimens already obtained reached Europe in safety, the sale of them will cover all the expenses already incurred ; and as the most difficult part of the undertaking may be considered as overcome, the risk which subscribers might have to run is very materially diminished.

In September 1838, the following additional information was printed in German and circulated among the friends of the *Unio Itineraria*.

The travels of M. Schimper in Abyssinia are still prosecuted. The collections which he has made in that country, consisting chiefly of dried plants, were deposited at the date of his last letter (April 1838) in fifteen chests, and were lying at Adoa, the place of his temporary sojourn. The choice was offered him, whether to proceed to Europe, carrying his collections with him, or to remain in Abyssinia with the object of exploring the high mountainous country of Semea and the valleys of Schoho. In the latter case, he must leave the treasures that he had already amassed in Adoa, as the heavy charges attendant on their despatch to Massava on the Red Sea and thence to Egypt would exhaust all his funds, and forbid his prosecuting the aforesaid researches in Abyssinia. His decision has been to pursue his way to those districts, hitherto unexplored, which lie under the special jurisdiction of Prince Ubie ; and this great chief, mollified by petitions and presents, exempts M. Schimper from the decree of banishment recently passed against all Europeans, and which hastened from Adoa the missionaries Blumhardt and Isenberg, with whom our traveller had been residing there, and who had shown him much kindness. These estimable individuals confirm to the fullest extent the statement that Schimper has sent us respecting the value of his collections, and also speak most highly of his exertions. Hitherto, M. Schimper's labours have been confined to the moderately elevated ground that lies about Adoa ; but if he can also investigate the high mountain ranges, a most interesting epoch will take place in the annals of botanical research with respect to Abyssinia. This consideration and the desire to perfect his labours induced M. Schimper to expose himself to new fatigues and dangers, through which we hope that his previous experience and the sound constitution that he possesses will enable him to pass unharmed.

The most essential requisite is now that the traveller should be furnished with fresh remittances, so that on his return from the journey in hand, he may be enabled to incur the expense of despatching his collections. The removal of these numerous packages and the permission to forward them over a considerable extent of coun-

it must be observed containing a beautiful suite of the Lisbon Flora, and a great number of rare and novel species; for instance, some undescribed *Carices*, a new *Laurus*, a new *Vaccinium*, a large-flowered new species of *Euphrasia*, an undescribed *Frankenia* and *Veronica*, together with several recent discoveries, the fruits of the Rev. Mr. Lowe's labours in Madeira. For these, subscriptions are received of from 10 to 36 florins (22 to 75 francs, which must be sent free of postage), and for which the collections will be transmitted early in the following year.

PROFESSOR HOCHSTETTER.

DR. STEUDEL.

Esslingen, Sept. 10, 1838.

We learn by letters lately received from Switzerland, that Dr. Brunner of Berne has returned from the Cape de Verd Islands with a collection of from 500 to 600 species of plants, which it is his intention to offer to botanists at the rate of about 2*l.* the hundred species.

Mr. Gardner is prosecuting his botanical researches in Brazil with unabated ardour. At p. 463 of vol. i. we mentioned his arrival at Pernambuco, and gave some account of the vegetation of that district, which he had communicated in a letter dated Jan. 24, 1838.

Since that period several letters have reached us from this enterprising naturalist (the last dated in July of this year), from which we extract the following passages.

“Maçêio, Province of Alagoas, April 5, 1838.

“I am highly gratified to hear that my collections from the Organ Mountains give so much satisfaction. After the labour bestowed on collecting and preserving them, this intelligence becomes doubly agreeable. It is peculiarly pleasant to me to know that the *Cactus* which I named after my noble and generous patron the Duke of Bedford is doing so well in the Glasgow Botanic Garden. It is a remarkably pretty species, and will soon, I trust, blossom with you; the specimen which I first saw, and of which the discovery gave me more delight than I can describe, was adorned with upwards of 200 flowers.

“Since I last wrote to you I have done and suffered a good deal, having been within an inch of the grave from a severe attack of dysentery while on a voyage up the Rio San Francisco. On the 30th of January I left Pernambuco in a canoe for this place, where I pur-

posed to spend two months, till the rainy season should set in, and then proceed into the interior. The Rio San Francisco being so near, I determined on visiting it, knowing that in these tropical countries the margins of rivers generally afford good botanizing. After collecting a few plants in the vicinity of this place, I embarked in a *Jan-gada* for Pebá, a village five leagues to the north of the mouth of the San Francisco river, the heavy surf which breaks on the bar not allowing small craft to approach nearer, and from thence made my way in a bullock cart to the village of Piassabussa, situated on the north bank of the river, and two leagues from its outlet. It was night when I arrived, but next morning I was highly delighted with the sight of that magnificent stream, then discharging, as usual at that season, its greatest quantity of water, and more swollen by the late rains than it has been since the year 1792. The flat country on both sides was inundated to a great extent, and hundreds of families obliged to quit their dwellings, which were either carried away or quite submerged. From Piassabussa I again embarked in a canoe for the Villa do Peñedo, situated five leagues higher up, and there I spent a few days in the house of the Juiz Derita, a very excellent kind man, a lover of science and particularly fond of botany, although he attends more to the theoretical than the practical part of it. My great wish was to reach the magnificent falls, nearly 200 miles nearer the source of the river, 60 miles of which must be travelled overland. Every one dissuaded me from the attempt, particularly at this season, when the ground is so much burned up that it is impossible to find grass and water for horses. Still I determined to proceed, and hired a canoe to convey me as far as the stream was navigable; and just as we had reached this point, 100 miles up, close to the Ilha do San Pedro, a large island in the river, a tremendous storm overtook us in the middle of the stream. Such a hurricane I never witnessed. Before we could reach the lee side of the river, there more than a league broad, our canoe had nearly upset, and would certainly have done so, when we must all have been drowned, but for the exertions of my black servant and myself, for the crew were so terrified as to lose all presence of mind, and they gave no assistance; and the night was dark, the river broad, and the current strong. The thunder and lightning and rain exceeded all I could imagine. Drenched to the skin we reached the shore, and remained till daybreak in our wet clothes, and the consequence to me was a severe attack of dysentery. For several days there was no prospect of my recovery, and more than once I attempted to write what I considered would be my last letters to Sir W. J. Hooker and

another friend, when my disease took a favourable turn, and I soon recovered sufficient strength to return to the Villa do Peñedo, where my kind friend the Juiz gave me a most welcome reception. His attentions accelerated my amendment, and I soon began to make considerable collections in the neighbourhood. In going up the river I had obtained many valuable things, chiefly *Leguminosæ* and *Loranthaceæ*; and on the Ilha San Pedro, where I remained during my illness, there were a great variety of fine *Cacti*, of which, spite of my great debility, I brought away three large cases. Some of the species attain a height of nearly thirty feet, and have stems three feet in circumference. A beautiful *Melocactus* particularly attracted my attention, and I trust the plants of it that I collected will do well. Many of the *Cacti* are no doubt new. I only found two species of *Orchideæ*. The island is chiefly inhabited by civilized Indians. It is my intention to take these collections to Pernambuco and ship them from thence; and I will at the same time give you a full account of my voyage and the vegetation of the country through which I passed. Since I came back I have visited the city of Alagoas, which is situated on the margin of a large lake, about six leagues from this place. I was much pleased to find there fine specimens of *Mayaca fluviatilis* (Aublet) and *Cabomba aquatica* of the same author.

"Any little information which my friends can communicate respecting the progress of science at home will be gratefully received by me. I trust that I may be allowed to receive regularly the numbers of the 'Companion to the Botanical Magazine,' for I assure you that it is really a 'companion' to me in this lonely life, where

I wander forth alone, and find no kindred eye

To gaze with me on the flowery earth and the glory of the sky."

[Mr. Gardner's subsequent letters will appear in our next.]

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A Cornish Fauna, being a compendium of the Natural History of the County. Part I. Containing the Vertebrate, Crustacean, and a portion of the Radiate Animals. By Jonathan Couch, F.L.S., &c. 8vo. Truro, 1838.

This is another of those little works which are daily rendering the knowledge of our native Fauna more complete, while at the same time it serves as a guide to the collection belonging to the Scientific Institution of the district. Mr. Couch has long been known as an observing naturalist, and as particularly conversant with the ichthyology of the Cornish coasts, and in the short Fauna now before us we have

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