

Diplacus * *longiflora*, suffruticosa viscosa pubescens; foliis lineari-lanceolatis utrinque attenuatis, vix serrulatis, margine revolutis, supra glabris; pedunculis brevissimis, calycibus villosis, laciniis vix inæqualibus acutis; corollæ lobis latissimis, oblique emarginatis.

HAB. In rocky places by small streams, in the vicinity of Sta. Barbara (Upper California). A species remarkable for the width and very oblique emargination of the lobes of the corolla, which is of a paler yellow than in any other species, and inclining to a fawn colour. The stems are very leafy, pubescent, and the leaves elongated and acuminate. The base of the calyx is also almost lanuginous. Flowering in April.

THOMAS NUTTALL.

Philadelphia, October 12, 1837.

XV.—*Information respecting Botanical Travellers.*

MR. TWEEDIE'S *Journal of an Excursion from Buenos Ayres to the Serras de Tandil.* (In a Letter communicated by the Author 12th April, 1837.)

On the above day I set out on a botanizing excursion to the Serras de Tandil, a dry ridge of rocky hills, or rather stony heaps, about 300 miles to the south of this city. My excursion would have been made earlier in the season, but domestic affairs prevented me. Mid-day being come before we started, we were able to travel only about sixteen miles, through a country intersected with wretched roads; for there being no material for making roads in this country, every one seeks the best way he can through the flat plains. The first thing which interested us was the sticking fast in a bog of one cart out of six belonging to my guide, a Mr. Methuen of Perth. The peons dug a track for the wheels, whilst eight pair of bullocks were employed to drag it out. After looking at their awkward work, we left them, and proceeded on our journey; and in the afternoon passed some large and beautiful groves of peach and Carolina poplars, the only sort of wood grown in this country. The peach plantations attain the height of from ten to twenty feet in three years, and are then cut down for fire wood. The poplars remain and soon become fine trees: these plantations last for forty years, treated as osiers are in England.

At night we halted at the house of a Mr. Roger, who left Killwin-

ning as a hired servant for the Scotch colony of Montegrande in the year twenty-five, then not possessed of a shilling ; now of a cattle farm stocked with about 600 cattle, more than 100 horses, and a large flock of sheep. The farm is about six miles in circumference, its soil as fine a grass land as one could wish to look upon ; all his own free property, the fruit of his own and his family's industry in that short time. As we quitted his house the next morning, he set out on his usual weekly trip with 107 lbs. of butter, at about 15*d.* per lb. : he says he sometimes takes more than 200 lbs. He has no hired servants ; though the work of managing the wild cows of this country is incredible to strangers.

13th. This day we travelled through a fine flat grassy country, well stocked with cattle and sheep : the land is dry, and the roads better than in the vicinity of Buenos Ayres. We passed through the village of San Vincente, a straggling mass of Panchos of straw and peach wood, coarsely patched with mud, the church of the same materials, but better plastered with mud, and white-washed. This village contains a population of about 2000 inhabitants. The country round, though flat, is beautiful, from the thick interspersing of little villas with which it is dotted. These habitations, each surrounded with a small plantation of figs, peach trees and poplars, make the country appear rich and beautiful, although in themselves they are as miserable as can be conceived. In the rooms there is no furniture, except a kind of cross-legged bed-frame ; for the clothes of the family are contained in a large box which also serves as a dining table. There are seldom more than three or four slender rush-bottom chairs ; the common seats being the skulls of horses or bullocks : these, with an iron pot, and an iron rod stuck into the floor to serve as a spit for the meat, are all the household furniture. Strangers and inmates of the dwelling have no other bed than a hide spread upon the floor. All travellers must carry their bed-clothes with them, or go without. I observed that this is the mode in all parts of the country.

At sunset I came to the house of an Irish merchant, who was the first to set the example of sheep-farming in these formerly cattle plains, having introduced a breed of Merinos from Spain about nine years ago. The success which has attended this attempt has been so great, that a taste for this species of farming has been widely diffused. Joint-stock companies even among mechanics are formed for this object in Buenos Ayres : it is consequently the rage of the day, heightened by the great demand for wool in the English and North American markets. Here I met an acquaintance who had prepared

a few specimens of what he said Signor Bonpland told him were rare plants; one a species of *Cleome*, plentiful near Buenos Ayres, a dwarf *Eupatorium* which I had often seen in the Pampas, and a slender species of *Colutea*, abundant in Banda Oriental; and near this farm I gathered a beautiful purple-flowered perennial *Senecio*, found first in a valley between the hills of Maldonado. Leaving this, the last English stage on a journey of sixteen leagues from Buenos Ayres, with a supply of five fresh horses, on the morning of the 14th, we travelled four leagues through a fine grassy country, containing no variety of herbage. The dry parts of it were beautifully adorned with three or four species of purple and yellow *Oxalis*. We breakfasted at the Guardia de la Monte, in the Pancho of an Italian gardener, whose wife was a daughter of one of the late ephemeral governors of Buenos Ayres. She was now, with her husband, contentedly transplanting onions, of which crop they had several acres. Onions are all transplanted in this country, as they will not thrive in seed-beds.

Leaving this in a S.W. direction, through a country nearly uninhabited, something like the Scottish moors, covered with a species of *Santolina*, called by the natives *Genga Nigro*, from its imparting a black and dismal appearance to a country of hundreds of miles in extent, enlivened only in a few places with flowers of the *Oxalis* and a few species of *Verbena*; in the afternoon we passed some extensive lagunes, on whose shores not a vestige of aquatic plants were seen, on account of the summer drought. About sunset we crossed the Riosolado, or Sollan, as it is pronounced. There we saw what in England would be accounted cruel and wasteful; for the drivers of a herd of about 2000 cattle, which the men, sixteen in number, were conducting to Buenos Ayres, having stopped at the above river for the night, had killed two young cows which had newly dropped their calves. These cows are their favourite food, which they roast nearly whole, just taking out the entrails. They place the whole carcase, with the skin on, over a large fire: thus it lies until they consider it sufficiently roasted, when all hands fall to work with their long knives, satisfying their appetites as fast as they can, without either bread or salt. This they called *carne con cuera*, and a choice feast. The two orphan calves being left strolling in the desert, a flock of buzzards had begun to torment the helpless young creatures and to endeavour to kill them by first picking out their eyes: in this way they destroy great quantities of sheep: even horses are thus killed by these strong and ravenous birds. Having crossed the river, we travelled about twelve miles farther, mostly in the dark, when we arrived at a post-

house or stage ; where, if horses are wanted, they are supplied at 1s. per league and 6d. for a peon to take them back ; an open Pancho also for a bed-room, and a hide for bed accommodation. This day our journey was but about twenty leagues : we found no specimens except a species of *Hordeum* of the marshes.

15th. The morning was foggy : the peons did not get the horses till near night. About ten we arrived at Arrog Commoron Chico ; here I found a pretty kind of *Triglochin* nearly covered with sand from the river. On the bank of this Arrog stood the principal *Estancia* of Signor Angenina, considered the wealthiest landholder of the Argentine republic. Our road continued for forty miles on his land, passing amongst many herds of cattle, also by some of the most beautiful lagunes to be seen, covered with a vast number of geese, swans, two species of flamingo, and a great variety of ducks, one of which is much larger than a well-grown hen, which it resembles more than it does a duck. These are called *Patto de las Serras*, or Mountain Duck : they congregate in very large flocks, and seem to delight to feed on land rather than water. Land birds are also, after passing to the south of the Rio Solado, more numerous, particularly the partridge of the country, of which there are two species, a small and a large. The former is by some called the pheasant. I believe they both belong to the quail genus ; they have no tails. The smaller species resembles in shape, size, and colour the Corn Crake of Scotland, and is caught in thousands by the herds on horseback. When approached, they settle close to the ground ; the rider then goes three or four times round, closing in nearer each time, and holding in his hand a slender rod with a small lasso at the point, which he throws over the bird's head and plucks it off. Thence he goes a little further distant, where he meets another bird ; and in this manner he will take hundreds in one day. The larger kind is caught by running : they rise but twice, fly the first time from fifty to one hundred yards : their next flight is shorter, and the rider galloping soon overtakes them and fells them with sticks. The swans are usually captured by five or six men on horseback, who go together into the shallow lagunes at a spot where they see a considerable flock collected. All birds of this country are so much accustomed to horses and cattle, that they take no heed to them, and are in a manner tamed : thus the riders are enabled to draw close to the swans, who rise in a cloud ; when the men shout with all their might, make as much noise as possible, which stupifies the birds, so that they drop into the water, and are killed with sticks.

In this day's long ride we picked up only two species, one *Cleome*

spinosa, an annual, in the marshes of the Laguna Clara; and a creeping syngenesious white-flowering perennial, very conspicuous amongst the black herbage of the *Santolina* formerly mentioned.

At dark we arrived at the Pancho of a friend of Mr. Methuen, where we got a good supper of fowl stewed with pumpkins, a soft food without the addition of bread. There are no mile-stones in this country; but we calculated that we had ridden this day sixty-three miles, with only one change of horses, through fine dry plains and with pleasant weather. The landlord of the house where we stopped was absent in search of his whole flock of sheep, 300 in number, which had been stolen the previous night. On my return I called again, and found that he had regained them, and had sent the thieves, two men and a boy, to the prison of Buenos Ayres.

16th. The morning was thick, foggy, and cold. I sucked two or three mattas for breakfast, and afterwards rode about two leagues through a dry trackless plain, and entered a great marsh said to be ninety miles in length, and varying from two to eight miles in breadth, called Barreado de Bessino. Its herbage was tall *Junci* and coarse species of *Carex*, so tall that a flock of cattle is lost sight of in it: it has a brown and dried appearance. At a spot which we passed, two miles and a half in breadth, though the season was dry, our horses were frequently up to the belly in mud: this marsh is valuable for the breed of the "Coypou? (*Myopotamus*)," thousands of whose skins are sent from this country to Liverpool annually.

At mid-day we arrived at the *Estanca* of a Buenos Ayres merchant, called Laguna Robino, a beautiful seat on the borders of a fine lake, covered with a great variety of water-fowl. Here they had attempted to grow peaches, willows, and poplars; but these were completely destroyed by the sheep, which are more hurtful to plantations in this country than horses are in Britain: now not a vestige of trees is to be seen in this country. The fire wood of the people is a *Solanum*, a suffruticose species of the marshes, which grows to the height of three to six feet: in naming my seeds I called it *Solanum glaucum*. At dark I arrived at the house of my guide, Mr. Methuen, where I stopped for ten days; in this day's journey I did not see a single new specimen.

Between my going out and coming home, in the marsh which we passed in the morning, two carts were attacked by a band of deserters, and plundered, and the drivers were barbarously wounded. At a post-house, where we changed horses in the afternoon, I met a man whom I had seen in Buenos Ayres, a native of Peterhead, coming to Buenos Ayres from Tandil, in company with a Creole. This Creole attacked

the Scotchman immediately afterwards on the solitary road and murdered him for his trifle of wages, which he had earned by working as a bricklayer at the fortifications of Tandil. So much for the safety of travelling here!

During my ten days' stay I lost no opportunity of riding and travelling through the neighbourhood to the distance of thirty miles in circumference; yet I did not meet with a single new specimen, except a dwarf *Juncus* and a *Rumex*, with a creeping insignificant grass of the country.

I visited the principal *Estanca* of a Colonel Alsega, who keeps an English gardener, but the garden contains nothing more than pumpkins, onions, maize, some good cabbage, lettuce, and turnips, with capsicums and cucumbers: these are the principal produce of the best gardens of this country, with the addition perhaps of a few sweet potatoes, melons, and water-melons in their season. This place is called *Juncus Grandes* from a lagune west of it, where that species grows very strong. The gardener is more active with his gun than with his spade; and this fine sheet of water gives him full employment in shooting ducks, geese, swans, and flamingos, with several kinds of land animals, as three species of armadillos, foxes, deer, &c. &c. The latter are seen running over these vast plains unclaimed and little disturbed, though several hundreds may be met with in a day.

This Englishman had promised to preserve me a few rare birds of this place for stuffing. After searching every bog and cave of this neighbourhood, I did not see a single new plant except a dwarf *Rumex*, and a minute anonymous plant plentiful on the shores of LaPerta. In rich moist pastures near this place I saw fields of the *Dipsacus fullonum*.

26th. I left the *Estanca* of Mr. Methuen, who was so kind as to accompany me with his own horses and peons as a guide to the Serras, distant twenty-four leagues from his house. The top of the highest of them could be descried on a clear evening rising above the horizon to the height of apparently six or seven feet. Though the whole of this district is as flat as a bowling-green, yet the sight terminates at the distance of from four to five miles: beyond this, every object is lost sight of. It is strange, that though the country is frequently a plain open field, and though the atmosphere is unclouded, neither house, cattle, nor tree is to be seen, although at no great distance.

This day's ride was very uninteresting: great part it of lay through vast tracks of strong coarse grasses as high as our horses. Fortu-

nately our path was, through most of the way, marked out by an old road track ; much of the grass was of the kind which is called *Pocho blanco*, having long white spikes at the head of the flower stems, from four to eight feet in height. At night we came to the *Estancea* of Leon Biga, a wealthy cattle-farmer, who being a friend of Mr. Methuen, supplied us with the best that his house contained ; with plenty of wine and music, which made the night pass more pleasantly than lying upon a hard hide for eight or nine hours.

27th. A pleasant clear morning, and my favourite sight, the mountains, in view, (a reminiscence of home to me, after passing years in a monotonous plain !) distant only about six leagues : we struck across the trackless plains towards the nearest of them, which are a line of dry rocky knolls, lying east and west. The village or *Guardea* lay in the centre, and at about six miles' distance from the spot where we left the horses and climbed the hill on foot. There we found a strange contrast with our former travelling, where not a stone above the size of a pea was to be seen ; whilst here we might almost have been tempted to imagine that the whole Pampas had been cleared of stones to supply this place. The *Serras* are a tract of low hills and knolls lying sometimes at a mile distant from each other. The principal line runs east and west, but detached from each other like loose stones thrown into heaps of 300 to 400 feet in height, consisting of no solid rock, but blocks of grey granite. The herbage varies little from that of the Pampas : not a tree or shrub was to be seen. The only few plants which I found were three species of *Cactus* ; three of a procumbent slender *Mimosa*, of which two only were in flower ; *Oenothera undulata*, with large fine-scented blossoms, the root leaves long, narrow, and much undulated ; a species of *Nierenbergia*, which is a beautiful dwarf shrubby-like plant with large white flowers, slightly streaked with blue veins ; a *Gnaphalium*, with thyme-like leaves ; and two Ferns : these were the only strangers to be met with at this season. The most interesting plant here is a yellow or straw-coloured *Cynanchum*, flowering during the greater part of the year : on a dry night, when the wind, sweeping over the hills towards the village, passes over this plant, it comes laden with a most delicious scent. We stopped in the village or *Guardea* only three days ; our lodging being in the house of an American *Pulperaro*. Here I met a Scotch gardener who cultivates a piece of ground on which he raises vegetables for the soldiers. He told me that he came from the county of Fife, where he was a fellow-workman with Mr. Drummond : he also met Drummond again on his arrival in the States, and travelled with him there for some time. He seems to be acquainted with a few

plants, and has promised to collect anything interesting as it comes into season in this hilly country : he is familiar here and well known among the Indians, whose villages are numerous amongst the Serras ; so that from him I expect something new, principally in the *Cactus* tribe.

The village, or Guardea de Tandil, is a military station, where is a strong earthen battery, surrounded with deep ditches as a defence against the Indians, who till lately were very troublesome. A little while before we arrived, they had come in a body of about 200, passed two *Estanceas*, and on the third cleared off every animal they found, to the amount of several thousands.

We turned to the north-west along the Arrog de Chapple Aguha, and travelled six miles to the *Estancea* of a Bremen ship-master, who has become cattle-farmer. He has been for nine years in the country, and now possesses a farm of 6000 cattle, 200 horses, and several thousand sheep. This dwelling is strongly guarded by ditches and a battery of three cannon ; being always on the alarm, as attacks and robberies are frequent in this district. On crossing the plain to his house, we came to an Arrog not visible till we were close upon it : when entering it to cross it, we drove in the foremost horse ; but before he entered four yards, he was out of his depth, with our bedding, my specimens, seeds, &c. totally immersed in water.

Having at dusk arrived at the house of the Bremen captain, we found him a hospitable and well-provided bachelor, having everything about him in good European style ; and we shared in his hospitality as freely as if we had been among friends. He said he was always glad to see persons from a Christian country, for he lived almost in the midst of savages, where he considered himself every night in danger of an Indian visit : he is however well prepared for defence. He mounted his horse and accompanied us for a good way the next morning, to put us in the direction homewards ; for road there was none. As I had searched in vain for specimens in the country, which was a plain dry pasture field, I made up my mind to return to Buenos Ayres.

On the 1st of May I left the Arrog de Chapple Aguha for Buenos Ayres. I travelled this day between sixty and seventy miles without seeing a single new plant, through a monotonous, rough, grassy, and in some places marshy plain. At ten at night we arrived at a miserable straw hut, where lodged four cut-throat Gougnas, who gave us a coarse joint of beef to cook for supper ; but, except green weeds, we had no firing. However, having tasted nothing on our day's journey, we were quite ready for supper ; and then we cleared a

corner in the midst of hides, stinking Tollo dogs, &c., where we spread our bedding for the night's rest : sleep we guarded against, as our company did not seem any of the safest. No sooner indeed was the light put out, than we heard one of them examining our luggage ; but when we made a noise to indicate that we were not asleep, he desisted.

Next evening we arrived again at the *Estancia* of Mr. Methuen, where we rested for a day ; then, with my peon and three horses, I set out for Buenos Ayres, where we arrived after a five days' dull ride, and nearly a month's journey in search of that which was not to be found.

We have been favoured by Mr. Bell with the sight of a letter just received by him from Mr. Cuming at Manilla, and which brings down our intelligence of him to so late a date as Nov. 1, 1837, after having been absent ten months among the southern islands of the Philippines, where he has made a very large collection of Crustacea, which he has forwarded to the Zoological Society and to Mr. Bell ; also five cases of animals for Mr. Owen, including a great number of fish, snakes, lizards, frogs, dragons, and bats. He states also that he has collected 1809 species of shells, amongst which are 300 from the woods, many of them magnificent. It was his intention to leave Manilla in a month for the southern provinces of Luzon and the adjacent islands, for a period of at least nine months.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

Molluscous Animals, including Shell-fish ; containing an Exposition of their Structure, Systematical Arrangement, Physical Distribution, and Dietetical Uses, with a Reference to the Extinct Races. Forming the article "Mollusca," in the 7th edition of the Encyclopædia Britannica. By John Fleming, D.D., F.R.S.E., &c. Edin. 1837. 12mo.

During our cursory perusal of this volume we had forcibly brought to recollection some lines of Chaucer, which the lapse of three centuries or so has not rendered the less unfitting.

“ For out of the old feldis, as men saieth,
Comith all this newe corne fro yere to yere,
And out of oldè bokis, in gode faieth,
Comith all this newe science that men lere.”

And yet the lines are not very applicable to the purpose either, for