

## MR. HAYTON AND DR. HOOKER

THE comments which have been made by several London journals upon the circumstances referred to in the original memorial, seem, in the interest of all persons concerned, to render its publication in this country desirable. We cannot doubt that any delay which has occurred, or may occur, in the delivery of a reply to the memorialists, is due to the desire of the British Minister to deal with the important question at issue in a manner which, while it is not inconsistent with the interests of the public service, is not incompatible with a due regard for the interests of Science, and for his feelings towards a very eminent naturalist.

TO THE RIGHT HON. W. E. GLADSTONE,

First Lord of the Treasury, &c. &c.

WE, the undersigned, deeply interested in the condition of English science, and desiring with special concern the treatment which Government Ministers of the highest consideration at Kew has so generously rendered at the hands of His Majesty since his appointment to the office of First Commissioner of Works, the most respectfully beg your attention to the following statements and observations.

In the year 1841 the private Botanic Gardens of Kew, which had previously been in the possession of the Royal Family, were handed over by the Queen to the Government.

A commission then appointed to enquire on their condition recommended that they should be enlarged and restricted to a national scientific establishment, which should form a centre of energy for the useful professions of the vegetable kingdom, a centre of reference and consultation for England, India, and the colonies, and a means of propagating the national pleasure, increasing the knowledge, and raising the tone of the English people.

The late Sir William Hooker was at that time Prof. of Botany in the University of Glasgow. The founding of an establishment like that contemplated at Kew harmonized so completely with his scientific taste and power of organization, that, at a meeting of which he had the honour, he offered to undertake the superintendance of Kew Gardens. His offer was accepted, and he was appointed Director of Kew, at a salary of just a year.

Sir William Hooker was at that time the possessor of an excellent private herbarium and of a valuable library, both of which were handed at Kew. To provide room-rooms for these an additional 2000. was granted by the Government. No alteration, however, was made for the maintenance or increase of either the herbarium or the library. The expense of both fell upon the Director.

During his residence in Glasgow, the excellence of his collections had attracted the notice of Sir William Hooker without any investigation, the number of which increased materially after his arrival at Kew. Frequent rooms of the house he occupied were devoted to his herbarium, which his twelve years was the work of the scientific botanists of Europe. Enabled by the Government, and by the exertions above mentioned, Sir William Hooker devoted his private means to the purchase of new books and specimens, and opened a correspondence with botanists of all lands. He thus made his house the most extensive botanical laboratory in this country, and the most important centre of reference regarding systematic, economic, and descriptive botany, as illustrated by his herbarium.

The garden expanded rapidly under his vigorous and distinguished superintendency in ten years after his appointment; they became a tree in the world.

For twenty-five years he had been collecting tropical fishes, drugs, plants, &c., and other products to illustrate the structure, uses, and phylogeny of plants. With these collections, made at his private cost, Sir William Hooker founded in New Zealand the first museum of the kind that had ever been established. Of such museums there are now three at Kew. They contain specimens of every natural object of scientific and economic interest, birds of tropical vegetation, and maps illustrating the distribution of plants over the globe. These museums contain a considerable amount of instruments, vessels, and apparatus used and used by the numerous persons who avail themselves of the stores of information they provided.

The contributions of Sir William Hooker to these museums

were his free gift to the country, for which he never received a gratuity of recognition.

In 1852 the Director's salary, which had previously been raised to 6000. a year, was augmented in kind, together with a house which had become vacant at the time. The herbarium was demolished in a separate building, and immediately afterwards dismantled and lodged in the Director's room by the Government, of the day passed into it. The interest of raising the collections of tropical fishes, and of drawing up botanical reports, lectures at Kew, &c. &c. exceeded the public need of the herbarium and still further recognized by the Government. The Director had previously tested the supplies both of scientific and scientific; of these he was now relieved, though he still continued to bear the cost of books for his library and of new specimens of plants.

Without this personal direction on the part of the Director, the development of Kew would have been a simple impossibility. For ten-and-twenty years his purchases were made and his collections elaborated at his own expense and risk, though they were constantly employed in the work of the country. Devoid of his death, knowing that his name would not afford to be in recognition of pecuniary considerations he had been honored, he permitted to leave his herbarium valued by numerous persons and offered to the Government at the lowest valuation. On these terms the collections which had previously been devoted to the nation were because the property of the nation itself.

Thus in a brief but brilliant statement of the relationship of Sir William Hooker to Kew Gardens. It shows how to have been their great creator.

The methods and achievements of the present Director of Kew may be thus established. In 1853 Sir Joseph Hooker was appointed Assistant-Surgeon and Commanded by the Antarctic Expedition, the most profound, perhaps, that ever sailed from these shores, and the richest results of which exceeded in importance those of any other naval exploring expedition of this century. During this voyage Sir Hooker received from the Government the pay of his rank as a medical officer. His outfit, his books, his instruments, were provided by his father. The expenses of travelling and collecting were during his two years' voyage of circumstances were defrayed from the same source, though this work was done with the express object of enriching a public establishment.

On his return, he saved his claim to promotion in the navy, and devoted three additional years to the classification and public edition of the results of the voyage. He also aided his father as an unpaid volunteer in the development of the scientific branches of the New establishment.

In 1857 Dr. Hooker was sent to India, to explore, in the interests of Kew, an extensive region of the Himalayas; and he was directed to proceed independently to Europe, to report on his vegetable resources. His visits, both to India and Europe, which entailed a large collection of expensive instruments, cost the Government nothing. To cover all expenses incidental to his three years' travelling and collecting, including the cost of scientific and specimens, a sum of 2,000. was granted, while the real disbursements of Dr. Hooker during this time amounted to 2,500. The deficiency was contributed by Sir William Hooker and his son, in the interest of the establishment to which they had consecrated their best energies.

On his return from India, Dr. Hooker again devoted himself to the work of aiding his father in the scientific development of Kew. He was also employed by the Admiralty, during the same year from 1857 to 1860, in publishing the botanical descriptions of various naval and other voyages, from Captain Cook's downwards, in parts of the world visited by Dr. Hooker himself. For this service he received three years' pay as a medical officer in the Navy, together with a sum of 5000., which was accompanied by "the recognition of their family's appreciation of the cost, perseverance, and scientific ability displayed in bringing to a successful completion this great botanical work." For three years he was occupied with the arrangement and distribution of his father's collections, and with the publication of his journals. To cover the expenses incidental to these labours, an allowance of 5000. a year was granted by the Government.

Besides the voyages and travels above referred to, Dr. Hooker has made journeys to various parts of Europe, to Western Asia, and to North Africa. The expenses of these journeys, though they were made with the express object of adding to the interest and completeness of Kew, have been borne by himself, and the results placed at the establishment of which he is Director.

We place these data before you, not with a view of sounding on these other matters or complaints. The labours of Dr. Hooker,

and the heavy drain upon his father's purse which necessitated relocation on a limited budget, considered the discipline which made him the man he now is. But we think it highly desirable that you and England should know as much of his career as will enable you to decide whether his arbitrary interruption by your First Commissioner be creditable to the Government of this country.

In 1847, Sir William Hooker being then seventy years of age, Dr. Huxley was appointed his Assistant-Director, at a salary of about a year, without a house; and from this time his close in the duties of the Gardens were added to his more purely scientific ones. In 1848 his salary was increased to good, a pair, with a house, and he died, on the death of his father, he succeeded to the Directorship without an assistant.

The liberality of his father and his own self-denying life in the public service here, we think, have sufficiently illustrated. We will therefore not permit us to place before you only one additional specimen of his conduct. As regards the Floras of Asia, Africa, and America, the Herbarium at Kew had long long languished. Europe, however, was long scarcely represented. Three years ago, a collection containing the very first seeds for the completion of Kew was offered for sale in Paris. At his own private cost, Dr. Huxley purchased this collection for good, and presented it to the Kew Herbarium.

This instance at Kew is but a year, and here is one-half of it relatively devoted to the establishment which it had been the constant object of his father and himself to raise to the highest possible perfection. Had these things been known in the Parliament and public of England, the First Commissioner of Works would, we imagine, have hardly ventured to inflict upon the Director of Kew the unnecessary and, every indignity, and irreparable loss of time against which this successful is a re-remembrance.

Under the auspices of his father and himself, Kew Gardens have expanded from 11 to 300 acres. They have long held the foremost rank in Europe. In no particular does England stand more conspicuously superior to all other countries than in the possession of Kew. The establishment is not only without a rival, but there is no approach to rivalry as regards the extent, importance, or scientific results of its operations. upwards of 170 volumes as a number of forms, including a most important series of Colonial Floras, but embracing many weighty contributions to scientific methods and journals, have been issued from Kew. To these may be added public lectures and official papers. The vast literature we have produced and published through the efforts of the Director of Kew, for the most part at an expense whatever to the nation.

To these lectures is to be added the correspondence of the Director with all parts of the world, a more selection from which, now bound together at Kew, contains some papers before alluded to by the Director, and for the most part answered with their own hands.

Of the popularity of the Gardens, which has been attained without parallel in any scientific use and reputation, it need only be stated that from 4,000 visitors in 1847, the numbers have risen to an average of nearly 100,000 a year. What they have done towards the elevation and enrichment of the nation and the just of the working classes may be inferred from the fact that last Week Monday 10,000 visitors entered and visited the Gardens without a single case of diarrhoea, cholera, or other mischief of any kind being reported.

Since Dr. Huxley's accession the Gardens have been to a great extent remodelled, and the establishment wholly reorganised. A great saving in outlay has thus been effected, without any sacrifice of efficiency. During the long years from 1847 to 1873 inclusive, the annual number of living plants sent from Kew to various parts of the world has been double, amounting on an average to eight or nine thousand annually. Of seeds planted at Kew, or distributed by the Director to various parts of the world, the annual average distributed amounts to three million specimens.

Of the practical value of these labours, the introduction of the Cinchona plant into India, Ceylon, and Jamaica, the commercial success of which is established, constitutes one of many illustrations. The introduction of Spermocarpus is another. This will be mentioned by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India and the Colonies. We would add, that there is scarcely a horticultural establishment of any consequence abroad, which would not be willing to acknowledge its indebtedness to Kew.

In India especially of thirty gardens treated at Kew are now employed in forestry, soil, tea, and other plantations.

Government gardens, &c., and a far greater number are exactly employed in other parts of the world.

By the joint efforts of the Director, a series of complete Floras of India and the Colonies was set on foot at Kew, of which those of the West Indies, all the American Colonies, New Zealand, Tropical Africa, the Cape Colony, and British India are completed or in progress. These are scientific works of inestimable value to the countries whose plants they describe, as well as to scientific travellers and institutions in Europe.

We have likewise published ourselves to a volume of Dr. Huxley's lecture in relation to Kew, and have well selling of his lectures on geology, meteorology, and other sciences, and of his researches with Remond of the Geological Survey. During his single year of office he coordinated to the Forests of the State two new systems, which are to be registered as landmarks in the history of forest botany. In presenting the Royal medals to Dr. Huxley in 1872, the President of the Royal Society spoke of these medals as "one of the most important contributions ever made to forest botany." We may add a reference to his numerous publications of the northern forests of India, in regions never visited by a European before or since.

It is not likely that a man of these antecedents, accustomed to the support which naturally follows work of the most original kind, would in any way spare himself, and more especially in matters relating to the well-known Kew, which just claims of his official superior. That the advent of the present First Commissioner, he had never been the object of a summons, and was never introduced into the practical discharge of his duties by the Board of Works. His proposals and suggestions were rigidly criticised, and his services impeded by the conduct of the Board, but the various duties were left entirely within his control and supervision; the extension and improvement of the establishment being always the obligation and work of the Director.

With this sketch of the early training of Dr. Huxley by his present past before you, you will be able to compare with the early training of Mr. Agassiz by the position which, by your desire, he occupies as Dr. Huxley's successor. You will be able to judge how for the First Commissioner is justified in treating the Director of Kew with personal contempt, and in really up setting the arrangements which he had made with reference to the irrevocable collections for which he is responsible, as to Mr. Agassiz alone, but to his confidence and his country.

Neither you, Sir, nor the English public here, beyond the speech of the First Commissioner on presenting himself to the President at the Tower Gardens, when he went out of his way to insult "condition, condition, and condition." That speech was a warning to every cultivated man who held office under the Board of Works, and it was, as you know, duly laid to heart by the Director of Kew. He desired to avoid all cause of offence was then expressed in a letter addressed to yourself on August 11, 1871:—"Having regard to the terms of the contract Mr. Agassiz is required to have expressed in public on accepting office, I feel it incumbent on me to be especially attentive to my conduct and demeanour under his rule."

Consequently, under the circumstances, one of your staff, and one of Mr. Agassiz's last acts, after taking office, was to send a rejoinder to Dr. Huxley. It was a new rejoinder by the Director of Kew. During his thirty years of public service with a thing had never once occurred, indeed, the very reverse of it had always occurred, the respect always professional esteem and moral worth having been always, almost invariably, accorded to Dr. Huxley by his official superior. This fact represented of his life was, however, not far from half of his, but was entirely from the First Commissioner's own mismanagement.

The responsibility of the removal and constitution of the plants house here, by special order, devolved upon the Director. After a searching inquiry, Dr. Huxley had been entrusted by a previous First Commissioner with the task of consolidating the existing apparatus throughout the establishment, and this led to the construction of Kew, in connection with the Director's plan and conduct, of the most complete range of herbaria for scientific purposes in existence. In 1871, however, he unfortunately discovered that he had been superseded in the day, without notice given or reason assigned. He wrote a respectful letter of inquiry to the First Commissioner, and received the following answer: "I am sorry to hear that you are so much interested in the subject, but he had been superseded, and would have to go on his own account."

He would, in our opinion, have been equally satisfied to the

which of which he is a leader, and the public which he had so long served, I do not intend to do so, but I will write a special kind of memorandum to the First Commissioner, in which I express myself as follows: "The matter, therefore, should not be allowed to pass as it is, but, inasmuch as I was, inasmuch as I was, the president of the discharge of a function of great importance. I will do it as soon as I can, and I have now to add, through one of my correspondents,

"I do not for a moment question the First Commissioner's power to exercise arbitrary authority over the Director of Art, but I do admit that there has been, hitherto, no plan whatever for such action as regards myself, and that the application of such acts, and the bearing on it to be informed of them, or not, as occasion may be, by my subordinate, constitutes a grievous injury to my official position, and tend to the subversion of all discipline in the department.

In the past, Mr. De. Hunter turned to the highest confidence in me. He had undertaken to do in your will and power to protect him from the First Commissioner. He respectfully obtained the privilege of bringing the matter under the consideration of the Right Honourable the First Lord of the Treasury.

You doubtless remember the letter addressed to you by Mr. Hunter on August 19, 1871. You could not fail to remark the reference with which he appealed to you, and his previous anxiety to take all possible measures to avert the necessity of such a step. "I cannot express to you, Sir," he writes, "the anxiety that this step costs me, nor how anxiously I have endeavoured, by suppressing all personal feelings, to conduct my duties here under Mr. Ayrton's till and to my own satisfaction.

"After upwards of thirty-two years spent in the public service as an art and archaeologist, a constant attendant on the great and illustrious personages, I have had since the Ayrton's rule no more previous position. I have had since the Ayrton's rule no more previous position, which, though involving no violation of any official duty, has been attended with much and various annoyances, both personal and official, through which I have felt it my duty to express to you."

You see, Sir, the Director of Art continued on about reply to his communication; but by the First Commissioner he was required to "attend the duties and participate in the completion and progress of the work in his office, and the particular reference and his with duty, of this being left to be informed through his subordinates of the acts of arbitrary authority of the First Commissioner, and the date and particulars of those acts."

"This challenge the Director of Art replied by addressing the Director of Art in the following terms, with the words, "I do not," "I do not," and "particular." Among them was included a list of letters right in and about the Department with the subordinates of Art. For example, the Curator of the Gardens was treated by Mr. Ayrton, personally, to have been by the office of a higher position, involving authority over works of Art, and by the Secretary to Mr. Ayrton to keep the list from the Secretary to Mr. Hunter. To the loyalty of the man to a master who is treated and loved, the Director of Art gave the discovery of proceedings which under any previous First Commissioner could have been impossible.

Consequently, Sir, was drawn to the attention of a letter addressed to you by the Director of Art on the part of August, 1871. It is his duty to report on condition, and so far as to be appreciated by all who know the real meaning of scientific work, and the historical and general work of this bearing conflict with your First Commissioner, that we do not hesitate to express to you in writing.

"Royal New Garden, August 24, 1871"

"Sir—I beg most respectfully to inform you of my further communication with the Right Honourable the First Commissioner of Her Majesty's Works, &c.

"The case detailed in the accompanying letter are, I believe, correctly detailed. I trust that I do not exaggerate in characterizing them as grievous injuries to my official position, and tending to the subversion of discipline in this establishment; and I am certainly no protection from a repetition of them, except through the intervention of a higher authority.

"Of these acts, those referred to under 1, 2, 3, formed the subject of a prolonged correspondence between the First Commissioner and myself; that under 4, I brought to the notice of Mr. Stoddard, and the result was the abandonment of the pro-

posal; that under 5 will, I venture to hope, be resolved by your authority. I believe from communicating on these acts of the First Commissioner is to inform in their entirety with the exercise of my power and subordination duties here.

"These include the labours of a Scientific Revision, a Horticultural, and the administration of Public Gardens, Museums, and Phoenix Grounds, imposed usually by upwards of 100,000 persons.

"Besides the living collections, I have the direction of the herpet and by far the most important Herbarium (by contents and amount) in existence, and a very extensive Library.

"I conduct, without a secretary, a responsible and arduous correspondence with Foreign and Colonial Gardens, as also with the Admiralty and Indian and Colonial Offices, on all subjects connected with Horticulture, Forestry, Botany, and the appointment of officers to duties in connection with these matters, and the introduction of useful plants everywhere.

"I have, further, the advantage or control of various botanical works now being published, by order of Government, of Art; and I have to devote every moment that I can spare from my duties to maintaining, by researches and publications of my own, a position as a Scientific Botanist.

"With the exception of Mr. Ayrton, I have been enabled to hold these duties with satisfaction to myself, having been treated with uniform confidence, consideration, and courtesy by my superiors. I was invariably consulted on all prospective changes affecting my own and my subordinates' positions and duties. On the subject of my relations at the Board, before their issue, my opinion in the Treasury, I was referred to; and amongst my other several duties was the control of the construction and repairs of the hot-houses and heating apparatus throughout the establishment.

"Subsequently to Mr. Ayrton's accession, my position has been materially changed in all these respects. He had kindly referred to the duties which he had administered to me a wholly unreserved and unqualified praise I ever received, and his last act (known to me) has been to take from me the above-mentioned control, without protest, warning, or subsequent intimation.

"I venture to hope that this may be reversed to me, if the reasons I have advanced in a memorial letter to the First Commissioner are satisfactory to you. To these I would add, that in all similar circumstances with which I am acquainted, in England or abroad, the opinion of the subordinates is called in for the first consideration in all matters relating to plant-houses and heating apparatus; and that from him with the care and treatment of the subordinates' collections, and under his immediate control, the opinion of subordinates in respect of the apparatus is required, is an absolutely wrong in principle as to effect a success. His choice of instruments and heating apparatus. Nor would it be possible for me to withhold from you my conviction, that I have by this arbitrary act of the First Commissioner been lowered in the eyes of those who know so many of the circumstances that I am dependent from the full control of buildings and apparatus which I was entrusted to erect and have still in use.

"Let me assure you, Sir, that I am unconscious of any feelings of personal animosity against Mr. Ayrton.

"Having regard to the honor of the institutions in it appeared to have expressed in public, expressing office, in respect of professional duties such as mine, I felt it incumbent on me to be especially circumvented in my conduct and demeanour under his rule. And his reliance of this to be my duty, that when all necessary under his unprovoked appointment, it is in the special respect, I have many nights to examining and reporting upon various books and pamphlets on the public parks of England, France, and America, for his guidance—a labor not very congenial and wholly beyond my province as Director of Art, and which I further undertake in the hope that it might lead the First Commissioner to judge more generously of the requirements and duties of some of the offices of the Department he controls.

"I am, Sir,

"Your most obedient servant,"

"Jas. D. Hooker, Director"

"To the Right Honourable

"The First Lord of the Treasury"

To this letter Mr. Hunter was answered by a reply from yourself, containing kind and considerate terms. You had communicated with Mr. Ayrton, and had received his explanations, which you forwarded to the Director of Art, "in the hope that they would convey to his mind the measures that there has been to

intention on Mr. Ayrton's part to disregard his feelings as with held the consideration due both to his person and his office."

Words of public duty is quite sufficient to account for the fact of your overlooking the serious mistakes and inaccuracies of the First Commissioner's "explanations." These, however, were immediately pointed out to you by Mr. Hooper. His object in addressing you was not simply to rectify a gross mis-statement on the part of the First Commissioner, but to lay stress on the substance of discipline in the Kew establishment, and things with which he was in the public service. Had these not merely affected him personally, he would have been perfectly willing to permit the statement of Mr. Ayrton's considerations, though he failed to discuss any trace of it other than his explanation as to the treatment which official papers sent him have continued to receive from the office of Works. He regarded it, however, as his duty, as an officer in the public service, to the Government and the scientific public, to give an effect to a principle a revision of the policy introduced into the management of work and all the departments of Kew's Gardens, Museum, and Herbarium by the present First Commissioner.

The specific acts enumerated by Mr. Hooper in answer to the request of the First Commissioner are thus stated below in italics to prevent

- "1. A transaction with any individuals of a nature as to me to be long considered as official, and as engaging to me principles, that I retain from characterising it."
- "2. Removing the Garden from his direct under view, without any communication with me."
- "3. Empowering the Curator to act independently of me in regard to the time he should consider himself under my orders, and instructing him to make any arrangements in defiance to his, and to consult with him."
- "4. Submitting to the Treasury and to me for my private attention in the Museum at Kew, without your knowing me of the intention; which works would have most seriously embarrassed me, as Director of the Museum, and would have involved a large expenditure, for which I believe no estimate was submitted, and which would have been in every respect detrimental."
- "5. Suspending me, without previous consultation, recommendation, or intimation of which I held the liberty as necessary, and which I am as obliged to hold irrespectively by performed by the Director, &c., of which the best and most important of the herbarium, &c., which you considered as intimation, the first three of these objections I fully approved, and the other explanations contain statements which are altogether at variance with fact."

In Mr. Ayrton's letter of "explanations," which you considered as intimation, the first three of these objections I fully approved, and the other explanations contain statements which are altogether at variance with fact.

In the very considerable note above referred to, which was addressed by you from London to Dr. Hooker, you say: "There must be some mistake about Mr. Ayrton's falling in with you at Kew, as he writes me that he paid the visit there for the very purpose of personal and friendly communication."

We especially ask you to consider how this "purpose" was carried out. Dr. Hooker was at Kew when the First Commissioner paid this visit to Kew. He pointed to inquiries for the Director at his house, or at the Gardens, or of his confidential, to whom Mr. Ayrton's visit was really paid. He held a conversation with this confidential person comprehending the Director's position and authority, which conversation he subsequently desired should be so communicated to the Director. The result of this conversation, however, was a communication to the Treasury respecting Kew, which was also kept from the knowledge of the Director. You will have seen then that what the First Commissioner intimated by "personal and friendly communication."

From its effects upon himself, Dr. Hooker could infer how disturbing the confidential intimation of this subject upon your attention must be. He was anxious to reduce this disturbance to a minimum, and therefore contented to suggest that he should be put in communication with one of your private secretaries, to whom he might explain his position. To this request you, in the kindest manner, assented, and placed Mr. Wood in communication with the Director of Kew.

Scarcely against his inclination, but driven to it by the necessities of the case, Dr. Hooker, as an instructor with Mr. Wood on the part of Kew, intimated to him the gross errors and omissions contained in the "Explanations" given by the First Commissioner to the First Lord of the Treasury.

The end of the year approached without any answer being

made to those communications and representations, and towards the close of December Dr. Hooker wrote again to Mr. Wood, who thereupon replied that a plan was under the consideration of the Government which would essentially alter his position with reference to the First Commissioner of Works. He was subsequently informed accordingly that the scheme was working, and the hope was expressed that he would have no opportunity to influence the Government. This was the first intimation he received. He afterwards called on the 31st of February, the Director was particularly desirous that the Government plan be his rival, and the first part of the year had been advanced.

In the hope of a satisfactory arrangement, a system was subsequently planned by you in the hands of the Director of Works, and on the 10th of March, 1874, before a Commission of the Privy Council, consisting of the Marquis, Lord Halifax, and Mr. Gifford, Dr. Hooker, by the desire of the Commission, handed in a memorandum containing a statement of the plain errors he pointed to in the Government proposal, definition and execution.

The report of these Privy Council was this: On the 10th of April, 1874, Lord Ripon was asked to convey the following verbal message from yourself to Dr. Hooker, which, as Mr. Marquis added, was to be regarded by the Director of Kew as a final answer to his appeal: "Mr. Ayrton has been told that Dr. Hooker should in all respects be treated as the head of the Royal Establishment at Kew; of course in accordance with the First Commissioner of Works."

At this time the Government had, although, created a plain verbal intimation to the effect by such a message. In a letter to your private secretary, written immediately subsequent to the interview on the 10th of October, Dr. Hooker put to you thus: "I am at a loss what to say as to the former position under a Minister whose I receive of constant communications, and who is responsible to his communication to the First Minister of the Crown, whose conduct I regard as important in the public service, and to which you consider to be important in the public service, and to which the intimation of discipline, &c., is contained, and the functions of a Director are retained to me, how can I be at all satisfied with such a verbal message that in every essential respect, or any otherwise determined? I should be thankful to Mr. Gifford's intimation on this head."

With great deference, we submit that the verbal intimation conveyed there put to Lord Ripon, and then Lord Ripon, through Mr. Hooper, to Dr. Hooker by no means put his claims less valued by the Director of Kew. He had suffered from the most intimation of the First Commissioner with his authority, and he had necessarily received intimation, and had no possibility to be made by the same Ministry. His duties and responsibilities as regards the management of the plantations had, so the intimation conveyed of plans of the present nature been intimated, without notice or participation in the Director of Works. Another class of intimation, in the same urgent manner, was intimated by the Secretary of the Board of Works, Lord Ripon, your message through Lord Ripon, to all intimation and proposals, and the First Commissioner to continue his intimation of intimation intimation? Whereupon writing had been considered, which your intimation had, intimation. No wonder that, notwithstanding his intimation and regard for you personally, and his regard for all authority rightly exercised, the Director of Kew should be driven to address to you, on the 23rd of April, a letter containing the following communications:—

"The fact is, that the intimation of Kew, which was intimated subsequently to the First Commissioner alone, has been by Mr. Ayrton intimated to the Secretary of the Board and the Director of Works in London, and this consequently, without fault found on notice of any kind given, the Director being left to discover his altered position as head, he could; and the Director has thereby been subjected to a notice of intimation and otherwise has thereby been subjected to a notice of intimation which he could not defend himself. These communications, the Director felt it to be his duty to bring to your notice and consequences which he had been caused by the officers of the Treasury could be obtained only through an official appeal to the Prime Minister."

After eight months' intimation, during which he had undergone numerous trials been referred to by the First Commissioner (and four of which were passed under the authority that a message be intimated what was under consideration), the position of the

Director of Kew is not better, but worse than when it was first brought into your notice; for within that period his views with regard to the scientific and other appointments in the establishment have been absolutely set at naught.

These circumstances are well known to the Director's subordinates. They know that he has been virtually deprived of substantial responsibility, and that his official attitude has been unassured, and his complaints general. The hosts of all sorts and conditions in the establishment, in their appeal, and the justice of the Director confined to occasions, that his indecision and determination to uphold the interests of science at Kew, compromised as they are by the second and general report prepared to him, hardly suffice to render that position desirable.

"I am a practical witness, will enable you to judge whether such a state of things is to be remedied by the care and rapid communication (and such you would allow me to call it) which you have been good enough to make me through Lord Ripon."

"I have the honour to be, Sir,  
 (Signed) J. D. Hooker."

Your verbal communication through the Marquis of Ripon was subsequently defined by Mr. Wren as a private and friendly communication, and your secretary proposed that, as an official answer would be sent to Dr. Hooker's official application, the letter from which the foregoing extract is made should be considered as an answer. Mr. Hooker, however, had shown his desire to think whose answer he had sought in this matter, and he therefore pleaded that you ought to see that which had been sent by others. With regard to the changes of the world's nomenclature, Dr. Hooker had been given distinctly to understand that it was given and fixed. He, however, absolutely accepted its existence of some necessity, and accepted the official reply, and we have accordingly published it, in your volume in transcription.

"Treasury Chambers, April 22, 1879.  
 "Sir,—I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to acquaint you that their Lordships have been in communication with the First Commissioner of Works in the matter contained in the letter which you have addressed to the First Lord of the Treasury."

"Their Lordships find that there is no difference of opinion upon the question of your position, which was fully defined in that point of the Lord Commissioners at Kew, of course in relation to the First Commissioner, and they accordingly re-affirm in the future regulation of the relations of that important establishment to the office of the Director of Works, in which the duties and powers of management are vested by statute."

"The present form of estimate for Kew Gardens, laid by their Lordships before the House of Commons cannot be altered, but it will be acted upon, and will in future be framed in accordance with the letter."

"I am, Sir,  
 Your obedient servant,  
 (Signed) CHARLES W. STRENGTH, Principal Clerk  
 of the House of Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew."

The concluding paragraph of this document, which is evidently the really important one, has been submitted to various persons acquainted in the language of official life, and we do not believe that a single one of them is ever of its meaning. Dr. Hooker, while willing to put the last construction upon it, thought it necessary to make a final inquiry, which was granted by these words:

"I am sure desiring of giving their Lordships no further trouble, and, of course, prepared either cheerfully to submit to their decision, whenever it is clearly given, or to resign the office which I hold; but I am unable to find in your letter any judgment whatever upon the points contained in the accompanying Memorandum, which have all been submitted to the First Lord of the Treasury in my letter of August 22 and 24, as in the Committee of the Cabinet which I had the honour of attending on March 22 at Lord Ripon's residence."

"I trust that their Lordships will observe, that in making their decision on these several questions, I am willing to accept their authority, but that it is intended to put me in a subordinate position and to remove their Lordships' administrative relations in regard to the above matters."

"I am, Sir,  
 Your obedient servant,  
 (Signed) J. D. HOOKER, Director  
 of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew."

"Charles W. Strength, Esq."

#### MEMORANDUM

"1. Up to the date of the appointment of a Director of Works (under the Board of Works) in 1876, I was entrusted, by a special warrant of the Board, with the duty of preparing the estimates for the construction and repairs of the plantations, nurseries, and working grounds in this establishment. This warrant has been cancelled, without limit of time, leaving matters of estimation given, and the duty transferred to the Director of Works."

"Will you be good enough to inform me if it is their Lordships' intention that the powers conferred upon me by that warrant be restored to me?"

"Previous to the accession of the present First Commissioner to office, I was consulted whenever changes were made in the estimates which it is my duty to submit to the Board, prior to their transmission to the Treasury."

"Am I to understand that hereafter the estimates will not be allowed by the Board without giving me an opportunity of stating my views?"

"I was consulted with the custody and distribution to scientific bodies, &c. of the copies of the first volume of the 'Flora of Tropical Africa,' a work the publication of which I am officially instructed to superintend at Kew. On the publication of the second volume, the substituted copies of the first were withdrawn, without inquiry, from my custody, and sent, together with those of the second volume, to the railway office for sale."

"Would you be so good as to state whether I am in future to be entrusted with the custody and distribution of scientific works of which I am (as usual editor) an entrusted with the publication by the Board?"

"Previous to the accession of the present First Commissioner to office, I was consulted in all cases of prospective changes in the position and duties of my subordinates, and in all cases of proposed works that might affect my duties and responsibilities."

"I shall be glad to know whether I am in future to be consulted in regard to such matters."

"The Department of Works having been brought under the rules of the Civil Service Commission, all candidates for employment at Kew are liable to be chosen by open competition, except in cases where the qualifications required are wholly or in part professional, or are ordinarily to be acquired in the Civil Service, as set forth in Clause VII. of the Commissioners' Rules. The present First Commissioner of Works wishes to allow me to take advantage of Clause VII. in cases both of purely botanical and horticultural appointments."

"Am I hereafter to be allowed to read in part of this clause, when it is of importance to the public service that I should do so?"

"The Director of Works having been given power to introduce matters for which I am in part responsible, I am anxious to know—"

"Whether I am to consider myself subordinate to the Director of Works in such matters, and to submit to his control in respect of them."  
 (Signed) J. D. HOOKER.

"Kew, May 1, 1879."

To this letter no answer has been received.

It has rarely fallen in either with my duties or my desire to be useful in public positions, and not until we found Dr. Hooker's interest in regard to scientific matters—not until we saw the noble establishment of which he has laboured here the living land in peril of being overgrown which it would be absolutely impossible to replace; not, indeed, until we had observed a limitation upon your own which we believed could only arise from lack of information—did we thought of interference in this controversy upon to us. Knowing how difficult it must be for me engaged in the duties of your high position to keep the mind and memory of a conflict like that originated by the First Commissioner of Works, we venture to hope that you will not look with displeasure on an attempt to place a fuller and correct statement of the case before you.

Your statement before you respectfully to decide whether Kew Gardens are or are not to be the property of a man of whose scientific labours any nation might be proud; in whom natural capacity by the good, he occupies has been developed by a culture encouraged in variety and nature; a man honoured by his society, beloved by his country and millions of home; and who has spent in the public service not only a station but an illustrious life. The resignation of Dr. Hooker under the di-

