

patch of the same plants. There were some dozens, all growing close together, about 150 yards from the George's Bay side of the Scamander Bridge.

I was unfortunately unable to obtain access to a copy of Bentham's *Flora Australiensis*, to assist me in identifying the plant, so sent specimens to Dr. Mueller by Mr. Thos. Stephens, and received from the Baron the identification given below.

As I had camped for some time near where I first found the plant, and on the day of finding it had had a good search round for more specimens, without success, I conclude it is of rare occurrence, especially as there are few spots near George's Bay, and along the road between Falmouth and George's Bay, which I have not frequently carefully searched for botanical specimens, without ever before finding it.

The largest specimens were about six inches in height; some but slightly branched, others like small dense shrubs.

Extract from Baron von Mueller's letter of the 9th May, 1881:—

“This most interesting addition to our collections of Tasmanian plants, now *Zieria veronica*, was already described by me in the transactions of the Phil. Soc. of Victoria i., p. 11, in 1854. This again shows, like the discovery of *Verbena officinalis* near Launceston, that even the localities near largely inhabited settlements in your main island are not yet exhaustively searched for plants: how much may thus yet turn up if the unsettled places in King's and Flinder's Islands together with your smaller isles become well searched, not to speak of interior portions of N.W. Tasmania, with its botanically almost unexplored alpine heights.”

THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUEEN'S DOMAIN.

BY E. J. CROUCH, M.R.C.S. Eng.

Read 14th June, 1881.

This is not the first time that the subject on which I intend to read a paper (namely, the Queen's Domain, and suggestions for its improvement) has been before your Society. I may mention that this matter was brought before your notice in the year 1875, when it was very warmly discussed by the public at that time, and several letters were read before your Society; still, I regret to say, very little has been done since then to beautify a spot that is certainly so well adapted to be

a park and recreation ground for the people, though in 1880 light was once more thrown on the subject, for a petition was numerously signed by many influential citizens, and laid before the House, when, through the exertions of members of the same, the sum of £200 was voted for improvements in the Domain; still nothing of any importance up to the present time has been done to effect the desired improvements. I, therefore, feel it my duty to again attempt to awake the interest of the public in this national undertaking, and hope that from any discussion which may take place after the reading of this paper some practical and lasting results will follow.

Among the minor improvements that have taken place this last year, I may mention the work done by prison labour in removing imbedded stones and levelling the ground in the neighbourhood of the Queen's Battery, together with the clearance of surface stones in other parts of the Domain. Another great improvement was the removal, or rather softening down, of the rugged quarry near the High School, which could be seen from most parts of the city of Hobart—I shall have reason to allude to this quarry in my remarks on improvements—and, lastly, the planting out of some young promising trees in the neighbourhood of the Royal Society's Gardens. This is certainly a step in the right direction, and augurs well for the future. Also the preventing of cattle from grazing in the Domain. I think that some modification of this will very likely have to take place, as the long grass will be liable in the summer months to accidental causes of fire.

I now bring before your notice some suggestions in regard to the future.

(1.) That a committee of the Royal Society be appointed to wait on the Minister of Lands and explain their views with regard to future improvements in the Domain, these to be carried out under their control, permission being given them to draw up a rough scheme or plan in order that all work connected with the improvement of the Queen's Domain might be done under a distinct system.

(2.) That such committee should receive an annual grant of, at the very least, £200 from Government. This sum was voted for improvement of the Domain only last session.

(3.) That the quarry in front of Government House be at once levelled in a similar manner to that already done near the High School, and arranged as a nursery, where plants, which might be received from the gardens or elsewhere, too young to be planted at once in the Domain, might be grown on until sufficiently strong to be removed.

(4.) That prison labour should at once commence near the

present drive round the Domain by removing the unsightly stumps and roots of trees; then trench and prepare any places capable of growing a variety of deciduous trees or shrubs ornamental in their character, such places having been previously pointed out by the committee. Subjoined is enumerated a list of deciduous trees which would be suitable for forming avenues, &c.:—*Ulmus campestris* (common English Elm), *Ulmus montana* (Broad-leaved or Mountain Elm), *Ulmus stricta* (upright growing, very beautiful), *Quercus rubra* (Red Oak), *Quercus lanciniata* (Cut-leaved Oak), *Quercus coccinia* (Scarlet Oak), *Quercus pedunculata* (common Oak), *Fagus sylvatica* (common Beech), *Fagus atro-rubus* (Dark Red Beech, or Copper Beech), *Aesculus hippocastanum* (Horse Chestnut), *Aesculus hippocastanum* (Scarlet Chestnut), *Betula alba* (White Birch), *Betula rubra* (Red Birch) *Platanus Orientalis* (Plane), *Platanus palmata* (Palm-leaved Plane).

(5.) Amongst special classes of plants for undergrowth, I would mention the varieties of Rhododendron, which grow freely, have fine foliage, propagate rapidly, and afford protection to indigenous and other birds. Whilst especially wishing for English and foreign foliage trees and plants, I, above all, would urge upon the Royal Society the necessity of making parts of the Domain typical of Tasmania generally. To follow out this idea, I would point out how attractive the rough uncared for sweetbriar vale above the gardens would be if properly arranged and planted with native shrubs, such as the Myrtle, Native Laurel, Blackwood, Sassafras, and others.

(6.) Another suggestion to render the present drives round the Domain more attractive, surface stones having been removed, would be to sow the ground to a certain distance back with a mixture of English grass and Dutch clover (white), and *Lotus corniculatus* and *Tormentilla reptans*, thus presenting a greensward to the passers-by.

(7.) Fine views might also be opened out by removing trees, thus forming avenues through which some of the most lovely scenery in the island might be viewed. As this affects the present generation, I look upon it as one of the most important suggestions, and in order that the best advice might be obtained to bring about this desirable end, I would propose that this Society should offer a premium for the most appropriate plans that might be prepared for the improvement of the Domain, such plans to become the property of the committee. A lithographic plan of the Domain should be supplied to applicants wishing to compete for the premium. This idea might induce local talent to come forward, and thus prevent us from crossing the water to receive advice.

(8.) That prison labour should commence making a road from a point known as Chapman's drive to wind round the

hill, until the highest part of the Domain be reached, thus enabling the citizens of Hobart and visitors from the colonies to view from their carriages the fine scenery of the valley of the Derwent. I may mention, along this proposed route the Duke of Edinburgh was taken in order that he might view the lovely panorama.

(9.) I should advise that a donation and presentation list, under the heading of "For improvements to Queen's Domain," be opened, to enable the citizens of Hobart and the public generally to help forward this national undertaking.

In conclusion, I hope that by the next monthly meeting of this Society the Domain Committee will have been formed, a sketch plan approved of, and all that are willing and able enlisted in this noble undertaking.

ON THE QUESTION OF ESTABLISHING IN THE
ROYAL SOCIETY'S GARDENS A CLASS-GROUND,
OR SYSTEMATIC ARRANGEMENT ILLUSTRATING
THE CLASSIFICATION OF PLANTS ACCORDING
TO THE NATURAL ORDERS.

BY THOMAS STEPHENS, M.A., F.G.S., V.P.

[*Read 8th August, 1881.*]

Some three years ago I brought under the consideration of the Council the question of setting apart a small portion of the Gardens, in a central position, for the cultivation of selected plants, illustrating the principal Natural Orders, and arranged according to their botanical classification. At that time we had the advantage of the presence and co-operation of the late Rev. W. W. Spicer, and the Council gladly accepted his offer to take the matter in hand, but after some preliminary inquiry it appeared that the planning and completion of the new entrance to the Gardens would occupy all the labour under Mr. Abbott's direction for a long time, and no further action was taken. Some other obstacles were pointed out by Mr. Abbott at the time, but I subsequently learned that these had reference to the question of forming a collection of the indigenous plants of Tasmania, which was not then contemplated by the Council.

In August of last year the subject was again mooted by Mr. Barnard in connection with other suggested improvements, but there was no definite plan before the Council, and nothing more was done until a few months ago, when I