

associated with sudden and sometimes violent barometrical disturbance, from which I have been led to examine our own barometrical readings in connection with our periods of special telluric disturbance. I have failed however to discover any relationship between them. These periods appear to be associated indifferently with high or low, rising or falling barometer.

I have on my notes several other points which I believe would have been of interest, but I must forego them, as I fear this paper will be deemed too long already.

I would take this opportunity of thanking my numerous correspondents, who have from time to time assisted me by their communications.

NOTES ON JEAN JULIEN HOUTEN DE LABILLARDIERE.

BY BARON F. VON MUELLER, K.C.M.G.

(*Read 14th July, 1885.*)

Jean Julien Houton de LaBillardiere, born in Alençon (Orne), 28th October, 1755; died in Paris, 8th January, 1834. He graduated in medicine in the University of Montpellier, but subsequently devoted his studies almost exclusively to botany. For this purpose he traversed first the European Alps, and travelled, then, through some portion of Britain. In 1786 and 1788 he was sent by Louis XVI. on a botanic exploration of Syria, which brought him also to the Lebanon. The literary result of this journey was his work, "*Icones plantarum Syriæ rariores*," the first part of which appeared in 1791. When in 1792 the first search expedition was sent out under Admiral d'Entrecasteaux to ascertain the fate of Count La Pérouse and his crew, M. de LaBillardiere became botanist of the expedition, and had thus the splendid opportunity of rendering known much of the vast vegetation of South-west Australia (King George's Sound having only in the year before been discovered by Captain Vancouver), and also of the southern part of Tasmania, he being the first to explore phytologically the region where now the town of Hobart stands, although Bruni Island was visited during Cook's second and third expeditions in 1773 and 1777 already. At the war time LaBillardiere's collections were confiscated in Java; but on his return to France were restored to him through the influence of Sir Joseph

Banks, an act of generosity on which particular stress was laid in the necrology of Banks in the French Academy. The results of LaBillardiere's researches during D'Entrecasteaux's expedition are largely contained in the two folio volumes, "Novae Hollandiæ plantarum specimen," 1804-6; in the "Relation du voyage a la recherche de La Perouse," 1799, of which soon subsequently an English translation appeared. Further, in the illustrated quarto publication, "Sextum Austro-Caledonium" (1824-5), his three weeks' stay in New Caledonia during D'Entrecasteaux's voyage affording La Billardiere the opportunity to shed almost the first scientific light on the largely endemic vegetation of that island, but very little having been elucidated of that flora by the two Forsters previously.

Sir James Smith having already, in 1793, dedicated the genus Billardiere to the botanical companion of D'Entrecasteaux, it being founded on the widely distributed south-east Australian Billardiere scandens, to which, curiously enough, LaBillardiere was able to add in Tasmania the graceful and elegant *B. longiflora* De Candolle, described a third in 1824, Bentham a fourth in 1863, while in late years four species more were added to the genus by myself. (See Census of Australian plants, p. 7.) It seems, however, not likely that the genus will receive further additions to its eight now known species.

DESCRIPTION OF TWO NEW SPECIES OF TERTIARY
FOSSIL PLANTS BELONGING TO THE GENERA
EUCALYPTUS and *TAXITES*.

By ROBERT M. JOHNSTON, F.L.S.

[Read August 10, 1885.]

Among a very interesting collection of Fossil Plants, now in the Royal Society's Museum, I have discovered a new species of Eucalyptus. This collection contains numerous impressions of leaves belonging to the genera *Laurus*, *Cinnamomum*, *Fagus*, *Magnolia*, and others more difficult to determine. The general character of these remains (at one time carefully numbered) as well as the species *Cinnamomum polymorphoides*, McCoy indicate that they probably belong to the same horizon as the lower zone of the Launceston Tertiary Basin.