

Kelvedon 4th June 1856

To The Secretary of the
Royal Society

Thinking it may interest the
members of the Society I send some
specimens of a minute plant which
we have discovered growing upon the Aye
grass that has become naturalised about
the Homestead of Kelvedon.

It was observed about two months since
before the weather turned so cold & windy
our autumn was remarkably mild and
after the last heavy fall of mild rain it
attracted notice by the grass assuming
a bright red appearance as the cold weather
set in the leaves upon which it was located
withered and the plant ceased to thrive, it
seems to protrude from the folded blade of
grass, previous to its expansion, by a single
filament, as may be seen by inspecting the
specimens, and afterwards assumes a fan-like
or palmated form.

I have not been able to discover

I thought I discovered some black points
that might be the rudiments of ~~some~~
any organs of fructification - perhaps -
with the Society's Microscope they may
be traced out. it is however probable that
it belongs to the order of Algae

The Rye grass upon which it grows
has become "naturalised" along a portion
of the Melvidou Lagoon and on the bank
that rises from that spot and fronts the
South East - as the water in the Lagoon
is generally brackish, and the bank is
exposed to the South East winds which
~~blow~~ ^{wash} the spray from the sea, the saline
particles might be supposed to favour its
growth. but in equally exposed places it
has not been discovered, indeed in no other
part of Swan Port ^{nor yet on any other species of grass} have I as yet met with
the plant.

The grass ^{did} does not seem to be injured
by the Parasite, it ^{was} kept constantly eaten
down by the animals ^{about the Hermitstead} of the farm, yet as
the advent of Spring has caused it to
erect ^{up} still ~~threes~~ ^{stems}, and throws out fresh leaves
upon these ~~but~~ no more parasites appear. the cold

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weather did altogether destroy the parasites
but ~~did not~~ ~~not~~ ~~indeed~~ ~~destroyed~~
but checked the growth of fresh ones
but those single filaments remained
stationary. & now both the leaves of grass
upon which it grew & the plants themselves
have nearly all ^{withered &} disappeared -