

THE  
VOYAGE OF H.M.S. CHALLENGER.

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BOTANY.

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REPORT ON PRESENT STATE OF KNOWLEDGE OF VARIOUS INSULAR FLORAS,  
being an Introduction to the Botany of the Challenger Expedition.  
By WILLIAM BOTTING HEMSLEY, A.L.S.

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PRELIMINARY REMARKS.

IN the Introductory Notes on the vegetation of the various islands included in the Reports on the Botany of the Expedition, are embodied tables showing the distribution of the genera and species of each island or group of islands. There are also observations on the composition, affinities, &c., of the different insular floras, together with references to the diverse agencies operating in the dispersal of plants, whilst numerous facts and suggestions bearing upon the same subject are scattered throughout the lists. Finally, the Appendix to the third Part of the Botany is devoted to the record of evidence of the part played by oceanic currents and birds in the transport of seeds from place to place.

This General Introduction is not limited to a mere summary of the facts contained in the Reports, and speculations thereon; it has been so extended as to form an epitome of the Botany of a large number of Oceanic Islands, and of the Antarctic Regions generally. The special characteristics of Insular Vegetation in various parts of the world are set forth and compared with continental vegetation; and, as a whole, the work may perhaps serve as an indication to travellers of the nature and extent of the observations required for the advancement of this most interesting subject.

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LITERATURE RELATING TO INSULAR FLORAS.

A list of works devoted to, or bearing upon this subject, is given at the end of this Introduction; but it seems desirable to say a few words respecting the teachings of a few travellers and authors who have specially investigated or promoted the philosophical