

the growing treasures of the botanical world; he adds,⁸ "In this immense multitude of plants, I see that want which is most felt in any other unordered crowd: if such an assemblage be not arranged into brigades like an army, all must be tumult and fluctuation. And this accordingly happens in the treatment of plants: for the mind is overwhelmed by the confused accumulation of things, and thus arise endless mistake and angry altercation." He then states his general view, which, as we shall see, was adopted by his successors. "*Since all science consists in the collection of similar, and the distinction of dissimilar things, and since the consequence of this is a distribution into genera and species, which are to be natural classes governed by real differences, I have attempted to execute this task in the whole range of plants;—ut si quid pro ingenii mei tenuitate in hujusmodi studio profecerim, ad communem utilitatem proferam.*" We see here how clearly he claims for himself the credit of being the first to execute this task of arrangement.

After certain preparatory speculations, he says,⁹ "Let us now endeavor to mark the kinds of plants by essential circumstances in the fructification." He then observes, "In the constitution of organs three things are mainly important—the number, the position, the figure." And he then proceeds to exemplify this: "Some have under one flower, ONE seed, as *Amygdala*, or ONE seed-receptacle, as *Rosa*; or TWO seeds, as *Ferularia*, or TWO seed-receptacles, as *Nasturtium*; or three, as the *Tithymalum* kind have THREE seeds, the *Bulbaceæ* THREE receptacles; or four, as *Marrubium*, FOUR seeds, *Siler* FOUR receptacles; or more, as *Cicoraceæ*, and *Acanaceæ* have MORE seeds, *Pinus*, MORE receptacles."

It will be observed that we have here ten classes made out by means of number alone, added to the consideration of whether the seed is alone in its covering, as in a cherry, or contained in a receptacle with several others, as in a berry, pod, or capsule. Several of these divisions are, however, further subdivided according to other circumstances, and especially according as the vital part of the seed, which he called the heart (*cor*¹⁰), is situated in the upper or lower part of the seed. As our object here is only to indicate the principle of the method of Cæsalpinus, I need not further dwell on the details, and still less on the defects by which it is disfigured, as, for instance, the retention of the old distinction of Trees, Shrubs, and Herbs.

⁸ Dedicatio, a 2.

⁹ Lib. i. c. 13, 14.

¹⁰ *Corculum* of Linnæus.