

the Second; who, on his restoration, summoned Morison to England, where he became Superintendent of the Royal Gardens, and also of the Botanic Garden at Oxford. In 1669, he published *Remarks on the Mistakes of the two Bauhins*, in which he proves that many plants in the *Pinax* are erroneously placed, and shows considerable talent for appreciating natural families and genera. His great systematic work appeared from the University press at Oxford in 1680. It contains a system, but a system, Cuvier says,³⁵ which approaches rather to a natural method than to a rigorous distribution, like that of his predecessor Cæsalpinus, or that of his successor Ray. Thus the herbaceous plants are divided into *climbers, leguminous, siliquose, unilocular, bilocular, trilocular, quadrilocular, quinquelocular*; this division being combined with characters derived from the number of petals. But along with these numerical elements, are introduced others of a loose and heterogeneous kind, for instance, the classification of herbs as *lactescent* and *emollient*. It is not unreasonable to say, that such a scheme shows no talent for constructing a complete system; and that the most distinct part of it, that dependent on the fruit, was probably borrowed from Cæsalpinus. That this is so, we have, I think, strong proof; for though Morison nowhere, I believe, mentions Cæsalpinus, except in one place in a loose enumeration of botanical writers,³⁶ he must have made considerable use of his work. For he has introduced into his own preface a passage copied literally³⁷ from the dedication of Cæsalpinus; which passage we have already quoted (p. 374.) beginning, "Since all science consists in the collection of similar, and the distinction of dissimilar things." And that the mention of the original is not omitted by accident, appears from this; that Morison appropriates also the conclusion of the passage, which has a personal reference, "*Conatus sum id præstare in universa plantarum historia, ut si quid pro ingenii mei tenuitate in hujusmodi studio profecerim, ad communem utilitatem proferrem.*" That Morison, thus, at so long an interval after the publication of the work of Cæsalpinus, borrowed from him without acknowledgement, and adopted his system so as to mutilate it, proves that he had neither the temper nor the talent of a discoverer; and justifies us withholding from him the credit which belongs to those, who, in his time, resumed the great undertaking of constructing a vegetable system.

Among those whose efforts in this way had the greatest and earliest

³⁵ Cuv. *Leçons*, &c. p. 486.

³⁶ Pref. p. i.

³⁷ *Ib.* p. ii.