

ra, intended to secure convenience or elegance. For instance, that they are to be single words;⁵ he substitutes *atropa* for *bella donna*, and *leontodon* for *dens leonis*; that they are not to depend upon the name of another genus,⁶ as *acriviola*, *agrimonoides*; that they are not⁷ to be "sesquipedalia;" and, says he, any word is sesquipedalian to me, which has more than twelve letters, as *kalophyllodendron*, for which he substitutes *calophyllon*. Though some of these rules may seem pedantic, there is no doubt that, taken altogether, they tend exceedingly, like the labors of purists in other languages, to exclude extravagance, caprice, and barbarism in botanical speech.

The precepts which he gives for the matter of the "descriptive phrase," or, as it is termed in the language of the Aristotelian logicians, the "differentia," are, for the most part, results of the general rule, that the most fixed characters which can be found are to be used; this rule being interpreted according to all the knowledge of plants which had then been acquired. The language of the rules was, of course, to be regulated by the terminology, of which we have already spoken.

Thus, in the *Critica Botanica*, the name of a plant is considered as consisting of a generic *word* and a specific *phrase*; and these are, he says,⁸ the right and left hands of the plant. But he then speaks of another kind of name; the *trivial* name, which is opposed to the scientific. Such names were, he says,⁹ those of his predecessors, and especially of the most ancient of them. Hitherto¹⁰ no rules had been given for their use. He manifestly, at this period, has small regard for them. "Yet," he says, "trivial names may, perhaps, be used on this account,—that the *differentia* often turns out too long to be convenient in common use, and may require change as new species are discovered. However," he continues, "in this work we set such names aside altogether, and attend only to the *differentiæ*."

Even in the *Species Plantarum*, the work which gave general currency to these trivial names, he does not seem to have yet dared to propose so great a novelty. They only stand in the margin of the work. "I have placed them there," he says in his Preface, "that, without circumlocution, we may call every herb by a single name; I have done this without selection, which would require more time. And I beseech all sane botanists to avoid most religiously ever pro-

⁵ *Phil. Bot.* 224.

⁸ *Ib.* 266.

⁶ *Ib.* 228, 229.

⁹ *Ib.* 261.

⁷ *Ib.* 252.

¹⁰ *Ib.* 260.