

posing a trivial name without a sufficient specific distinction, lest the science should fall into its former barbarism."

It cannot be doubted, that the general reception of these trivial names of Linnæus, as the current language among botanists, was due, in a very great degree, to the knowledge, care, and skill with which his characters, both of genera and of species, were constructed. The rigorous rules of selection and expression which are proposed in the *Fundamenta Botanica* and *Critica Botanica*, he himself conformed to; and this scrupulosity was employed upon the results of immense labor. "In order that I might make myself acquainted with the species of plants," he says, in the preface to his work upon them, "I have explored the Alps of Lapland, the whole of Sweden, a part of Norway, Denmark, Germany, Belgium, England, France: I have examined the Botanical Gardens of Paris, Oxford, Chelsea, Harlecamp, Leyden, Utrecht, Amsterdam, Upsal, and others: I have turned over the Herbals of Burser, Hermann, Clifford, Burmann, Oldenland, Gronovius, Royer, Sloane, Sherard, Bobart, Miller, Tournefort, Vaillant, Jussieu, Surien, Beck, Brown, &c.: my dear disciples have gone to distant lands, and sent me plants from thence; Kerlen to Canada, Hasselquist to Egypt, Asbech to China, Toren to Surat, Solander to England, Alstrœmer to Southern Europe, Martin to Spitzbergen, Pontin to Malabar, Kœhler to Italy, Forskähl to the East, Lœffing to Spain, Montin to Lapland: my botanical friends have sent me many seeds and dried plants from various countries: Lagerström many from the East Indies; Gronovius most of the Virginian; Gmelin all the Siberian; Burmann those of the Cape." And in consistency with this habit of immense collection of materials, is his maxim,<sup>11</sup> that "a person is a better botanist in proportion as he knows more species." It will easily be seen that this maxim, like Newton's declaration that discovery requires patient thought alone, refers only to the exertions of which the man of genius is conscious; and leaves out of sight his peculiar endowments, which he does not see because they are part of his power of vision. With the taste for symmetry which dictated the *Critica Botanica*, and the talent for classification which appears in the *Genera Plantarum*, and the *Systema Naturæ*, a person must undoubtedly rise to higher steps of classificatory knowledge and skill, as he became acquainted with a greater number of facts.

The acknowledged superiority of Linnæus in the knowledge of the

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<sup>11</sup> *Phil. Bot.* 259.