

“Universal Method” of Adanson. The first author of the system was Bernard de Jussieu, who applied it in the arrangement of the garden of the Trianon, in 1759, though he never published upon it. His nephew, Antoine Laurent de Jussieu, in his *Treatise of the Arrangement of the Trianon*,⁶ gave an account of the principles and orders of his uncle, which he adopted when he succeeded him; and, at a later period, published his *Genera Plantarum secundum Ordines Naturales disposita*; a work, says Cuvier, which perhaps forms as important an epoch in the sciences of observation, as the *Chimie* of Lavoisier does in the sciences of experiment. The object of the Jussieus was to obtain a system which should be governed by the natural affinities of the plants, while, at the same time, the characters by which the orders were ostensibly determined, should be as clear, simple, and precise, as those of the best artificial system. The main points in these characters were the number of the cotyledons, and the structure of the seed; and subordinate to this, the insertion of the stamina, which they distinguished as *epigynous*, *perigynous*, and *hypogynous*, according as they were inserted over, about, or under, the germen. And the classes which were formed by the Jussieus, though they have since been modified by succeeding writers, have been so far retained by the most profound botanists, notwithstanding all the new care and new light which have been bestowed upon the subject, as to show that what was done at first, was a real and important step in the solution of the problem.

The merit of the formation of this natural method of plants must be divided between the two Jussieus. It has been common to speak of the nephew, Antoine Laurent, as only the publisher of his uncle's work.⁷ But this appears, from a recent statement,⁸ to be highly unjust. Bernard left nothing in writing but the catalogues of the garden of the Trianon, which he had arranged according to his own views; but these catalogues consist merely of a series of names without explanation or reason added. The nephew, in 1773, undertook and executed for himself the examination of a natural family, the *Ranunculaceæ*; and he was wont to relate (as his son informs us) that it

⁶ *Mém. Ac. P.* 1774.

⁷ *Prodromus Floræ Penins. Ind. Orient.* Wight and Walker-Arnott, *Introd.* p. xxxv.

⁸ By Adrien de Jussieu, son of Antoine Laurent, in the *Annales des Sc. Nat.*, Nov. 1834.