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CURTIS'S

BOTANICAL MAGAZINE,

COMPRISING THE

Plants of the Royal Gardens of Kew

AND

OF OTHER BOTANICAL ESTABLISHMENTS IN GREAT BRITAIN; WITH SUITABLE DESCRIPTIONS;

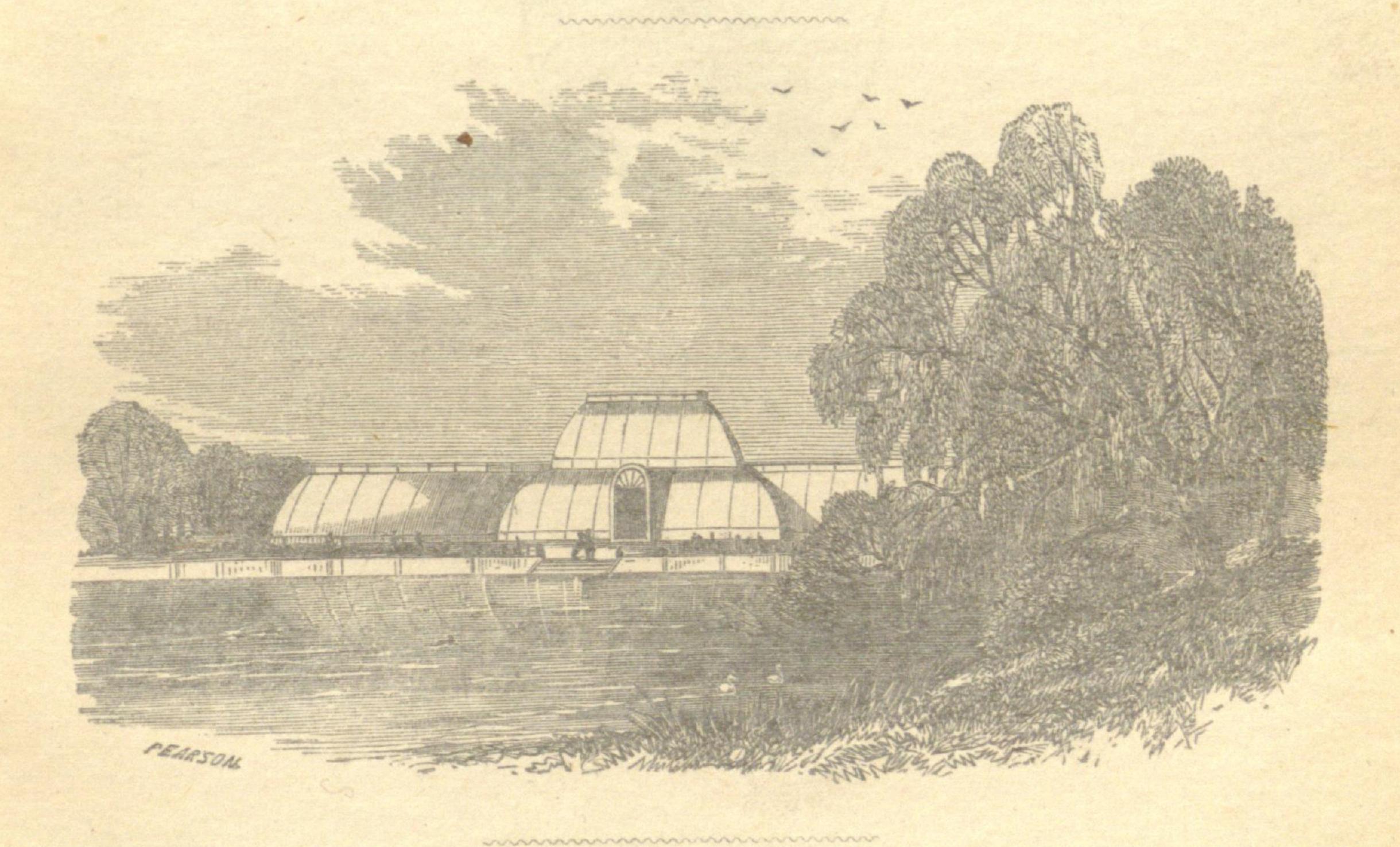
BY

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VOL. XXI. . OF THE THIRD SERIES;

(Or Vol. XCI. of the Whole Work.)



"Spake full well, in language quaint and olden,
One who dwelleth by the castled Rhine,
When he called the flowers, so blue and golden,
Stars that in earth's firmament do shine."—Longfellow.

LONDON:

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REEVE & CO., HENRIETTA STREET, COVENT GARDEN.

Mo. Bot. Garden,

1897.



TAB. 5508.

CYPRIPEDIUM LÆVIGATUM.

Glossy-leaved Lady's-slipper.

Nat. Ord. ORCHIDEÆ.—GYNANDRIA DIANDRIA.

Gen. Char. (Vide supra, TAB. 5349.)

Cypripedium lævigatum; foliis distichis ensiformibus coriaceis obtusiusculis lævigatis immaculatis scapo pubescente stricto 3-5-floro brevioribus, bracteis ovatis acutis ovario 2-plo brevioribus, sepalis lateralibus connatis dorsali ovato acuto conformibus, petalis sepalis 4-plo longioribus linearibus sursum in margine setoso-glanduligeris contortis acuminatissimis, labello angusto oblongo acutiusculo, staminodio cordiformi emarginato. Bateman.

C. lævigatum. Bateman, mss.

This fine new Cypripedium was discovered by Mr. J. G. Veitch in the Philippine Islands, and by him sent to his father's establishment at Chelsea, where it bloomed for the first time in March last. It is most nearly related to C. Stonei, the only other species known to have glossy leaves, but differs from it in the form and colour of its lip, which is small and of a dirty yellow, while that of C. Stonei is large, with a pink front on a white ground; the petals, too, of C. Stonei are not twisted, and only twice the length of the sepals, while in C. lævigatum they are much twisted, and at least four times the length of the sepals. Again in C. Stonei the dorsal sepal is striped on the outside with crimson, but is white within, whereas in C. lævigatum the crimson stripes are all on the inside.

Mr. Veitch found C. lævigatum established upon the roots of the well-known Vanda Batemanni, to obtain which was one main object of his voyage, though he sought for it long in vain, and had almost begun to despair of ever meeting with it, when running his boat one day ashore in the bay of a small island, he was delighted and astonished to find the rocks by the coast covered with huge masses of the plant of which he was in quest. As the Vanda affects a warm situation, the Cypripedium should be treated in the same way. At Chelsea it is placed in the East

India house, where it grows freely.

Descr. Leaves distichous, sword-shaped, less than a foot long, very thick, with a polished glossy surface. Scape twice the length of the leaves, slightly pubescent, bearing from two to five flowers. Bracts ovate, acute, half the length of ovary. Dorsal sepal an inch long, broadly ovate, hairy externally, striped inside with purple, ovate, acute; lateral sepals coalescing into one, resembling the upper one in form, but more acuminate, striped inside with green. Petals five or six inches long by little more than a quarter of an inch wide, tapering, crenulate along their upper margin, on which are some dark, hairy, glandular spots; at the base they are of a green tint, which changes into chocolatepurple for about three-fourths of their entire length. Lip small for the genus, about as long as upper sepal, unguiculate for less than half its length, then abruptly saccate, with a curious bilobed horny process on either side, of a dirty-yellow throughout. Ovary pubescent, about two inches long, purplish-brown. Column or sterile stamen heart-shaped at its apex, and emarginate.—J. B.

Fig. 1. Front view of lip. 2. Side view of sterile stamen (column), with its appendages. 3. Front view of ditto:—magnified.