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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

JOSEPH DALTON HOOKER, M.D., F.R.S. L.S. & G.S.,

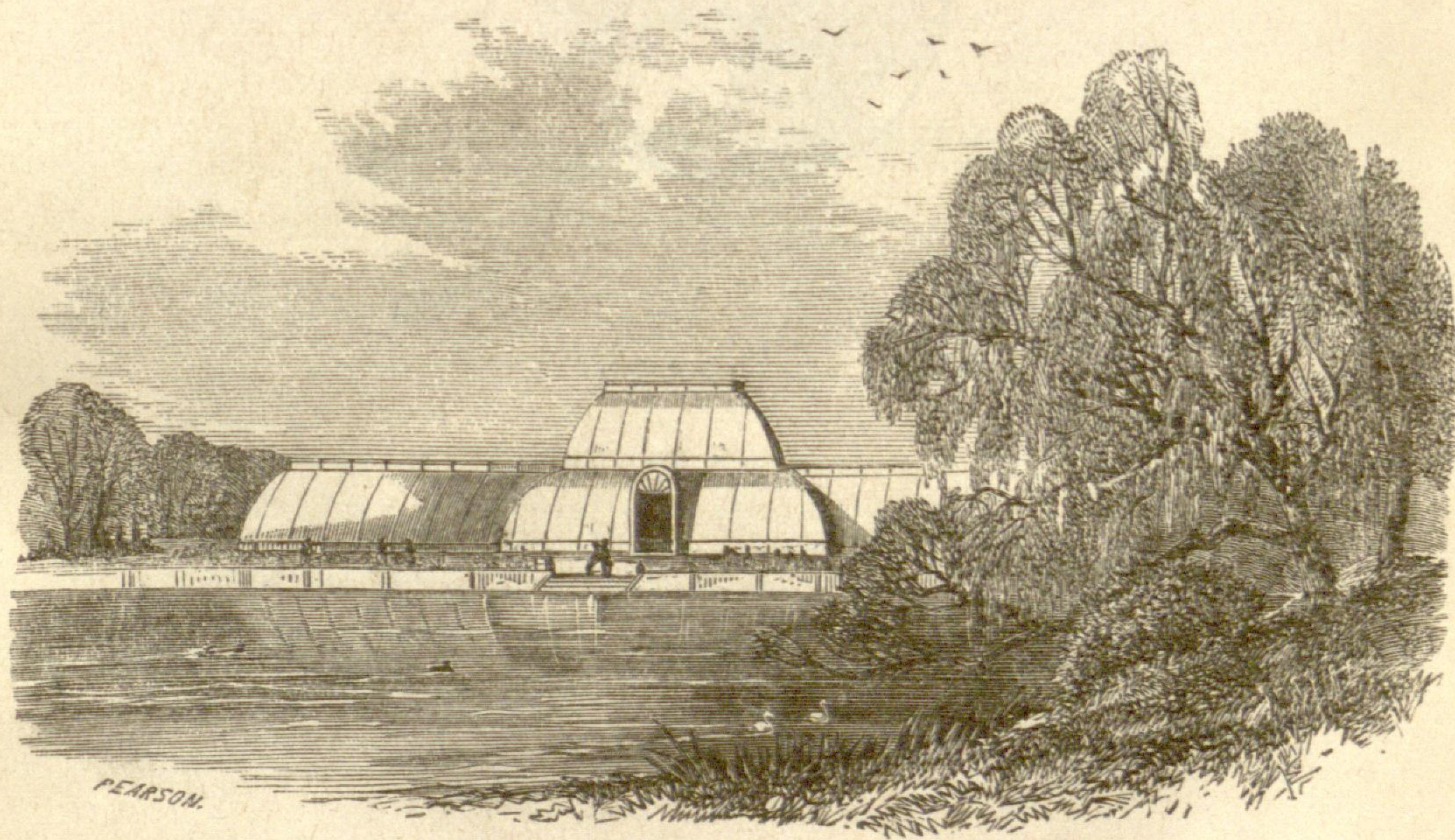
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VOL. XXII.



OF THE THIRD SERIES;

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



“In order, eastern flowers large,
Some drooping low their crimson bells
Half closed, and others studded wide
With disks and tiars, fed the time
With odour.”

Tennyson.

LONDON:

L. REEVE & CO., 5, HENRIETTA STREET, COVENT GARDEN.

1866.

Mo. Bot. Garden,

1897.



W. Fitch, del. et lith.

Vincent Brooks, Imp.

CYPRIPEDIUM SCHLIMII.

Schlim's Lady's-slipper.

Nat. Ord. ORCHIDÆ.—GYNANDRIA MONANDRIA.

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

CYPRIPEDIUM (SELENIPIDIUM) *Schlimii*; foliis coriaceis ligulatis acutis subpedalibus pedunculo hirsuto nunc ramoso brevioribus; bracteis triangulis ancipitibus, ovario velutino, sepalis ovatis obtusis, superiore ovato, extus sericeo, inferiore subæquali (vel paulo majore) apice contracto cucullato, petalis sepalo summo majoribus, inferiori subæqualibus; labello elliptico-saccato ostio angusto; staminodio ovato pandurato apiculato, stigmatis labio superiori triangulo, inferiori retuso lobato. *Ex Reichenbach.*

SELENIPIDIUM *Schlimii*. *Rchb. in Pescatorea, t. 34. Xenia Orch. t. 44.*

This pretty New Granada *Cypripedium* bears the name of its discoverer, M. Schlim, one of M. Linden's most zealous collectors, who found it in "moist places," in the neighbourhood of Ocaña, at an elevation of four thousand feet above the sea-level. It first flowered in M. Linden's establishment in 1854. It was afterwards met with near La Cruz by Purdie, and on "dry banks" (!) according to the memorandum in the Hookerian herbarium. Possibly, however, the different season of the year at which the plant was gathered by the respective collectors may explain the seeming discrepancy. In this country it is still a rare plant, though it is easily grown in a mild temperature, especially if screened from the direct rays of the sun. It blooms in the late summer and autumn months, always—when in vigour—producing flower-stems with at least one lateral, a peculiarity that is not represented in the figure, and which does not exist in the dried specimens. The drawing is taken from a plant exhibited at South Kensington in August last by Mr. Bull.

As all the species of *Cypripedium* that have hitherto been found in intra-tropical America have in common the remarkable peculiarity of a three-celled ovary, Professor Reichenbach is anxious to raise them—under the name of *Selenipidium*—into a separate genus; but however loth I may feel to differ from my distinguished friend, I cannot as yet see my way to accepting *Selenipidium*, except as a subgenus, in which latter form it may very conveniently stand. The strong family resemblance between such plants as *C. lævigatum* from the Old World, and *C. caudatum* from the New, make it exceedingly difficult to believe they can be essentially different in structure.

There are still at the very least half-a-dozen noble *Cypripedia* to introduce from America south of the equator. Two of these (from the Quitensian Andes) are well figured in Reichenbach's 'Xenia,' under the name of *Selenipidium Hartwegii* and *S. Boissierianum*. As nothing so fine has yet reached us from the eastern hemisphere, we cannot but hope that some enterprising nurseryman will, ere long, add them to the treasures already in our stoves.

DESCR. A stemless terrestrial plant. There are from four to six leathery ligulate sharp-pointed *leaves*, a span to a foot long, from the centre of which issues the hirsute *flower-stem*, which is longer than the leaves, often branched, and generally bearing about half-a-dozen flowers, of which not more than two or three are usually in perfection at the same time. *Bracts* triangular, flattened, more than half the length of the ovary, which is itself covered with soft velvety hairs. *Sepals* less than an inch long, ovate-obtuse, nearly uniform, but the lower one is slightly larger, hooded, and contracted at top. *Petals* rather larger than in the upper, or about equal to the lower sepal, white (like the sepals), with streaks or spots of crimson on the inner side, and a faint dash of crimson behind. *Lip* formed of a large swollen elliptic bag or slipper with a contracted opening, white behind, but with a large blotch of deep rich crimson in front. *Sterile stamen* yellowish in front, ovate, panduriform, acuminate, having the upper lip of the *stigma* triangular, and the lower lip of the same bent backwards, and lobed.—*J. B.*

Fig. 1. Side-view of staminodium (sterile stamen). 2. Front view of ditto :—*magnified*.