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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

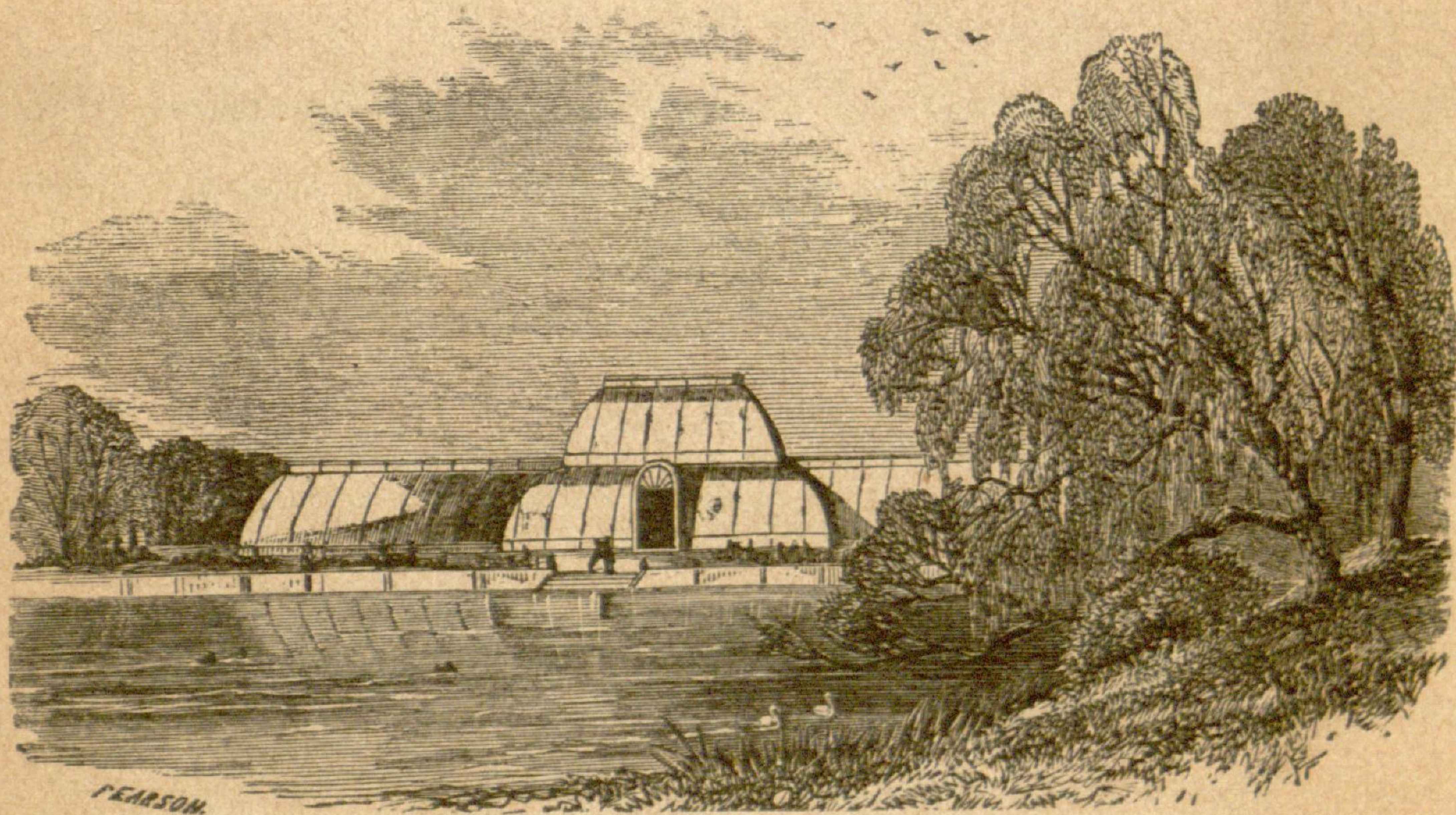
JOSEPH DALTON HOOKER, M.D., C.B., F.R.S., L.S., &c.

D.C.L. OXON., LL.D. CANTAB., CORRESPONDENT OF THE INSTITUTE OF FRANCE.

VOL. XXVII. □

OF THE THIRD SERIES;

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



Since flowers have their allotted hour,
When all their charms must fade away,
Art must exert her skill and power
To save their beauty from decay.—F. H. H.

LONDON:

L. REEVE & CO., 5, HENRIETTA STREET, COVENT GARDEN.
1871.

Mo. Bot. Garden,
1897.



CYPRIPEDIUM NIVEUM.

Native of the Malayan Archipelago.

Nat. Ord. ORCHIDÆ.—Tribe CYPRIPEDIÆ.

Genus CYPRIPEDIUM; L. (*Endl. Gen. Pl.*, vol. i. p. 220).

CYPRIPEDIUM *niveum*; acaule, foliis 4-6 patentibus distichis oblongis acutis v. emarginatis basi arcte imbricatis canaliculatis supra luride viridibus albo-maculatis una cum scapo unifloro et ovario pubescente luride purpureis, bracteis parvis ovario elongato multoties brevioribus, floribus candidis, sepalo postico suborbiculato acuto, lateralibus in unum ovatum emarginatum superiore multoties minus connatis, petalis late oblongis patentibus apice rotundatis punctis sanguineis conspersis, labello saccato parvo sessili ovoideo ore contracto, staminodio transverse oblongo apiculato.

CYPRIPEDIUM *niveum*, *H. Reichenbach in Gard. Chron.* 1869, p. 1038.

This very singular plant was originally described by Professor H. Reichenbach in the *Gardener's Chronicle*, who correctly points out its affinity with the Burmese *C. concolor* (Tab. Nost. 5513), whilst keeping it distinct, an opinion in which I entirely concur. Wide as are the limits of variation in *Orchideæ*, these less concern the *Cypripedia* than many other genera, and in this case the points of discrepancy between *C. niveum* and *concolor* affect many parts of the structure;—thus in *C. niveum* the bracts are much smaller and of a different form; the ovary is longer; the upper or dorsal sepal far broader; the lateral sepals are combined into one remarkably small notched blade, not one-fourth the size of the upper sepal; the petals are considerably broader; the lip much smaller, of a wholly different shape, with a contracted instead of an expanded mouth; and the staminode is broader than long;—to these structural differences must

be added the long slender scape, different coloration of the leaves, which are spotted with oblong white blotches, whose axis is parallel to the length of the leaf; and lastly the striking difference in the colour of the flowers.

C. niveum is a native of the Tambelan Islands, a small group midway between Singapore and the coast of Borneo; whence, Mr. Bull informs me, he first imported it in 1870; adding, that he had since received it from the West Coast of Siam. The beautiful specimen here figured flowered in his nursery in June of the present year.

DESCR. Stemless; leaves beneath, scape, and ovary of a dark lurid purple colour. *Leaves* coriaceous, four to six inches long, distichous, bases closely imbricating, acute or notched at the tip, keeled, dark dull green above, with oblong greenish-white spots. *Scapes* several, six inches high, strict, slender; bracts two, sheathing the base of the ovary, one-half to three-quarters of an inch long, oblong, obtuse, purple with yellow edges. *Ovary* two inches long, slender, pubescent. *Flowers* three to three and a half inches in diameter, snow-white. *Dorsal sepal* orbicular, cuspidate, streaked with scarlet at the back; two lateral combined into one ovate notched blade placed under the lip and smaller than it. *Petals* spreading, slightly deflexed, broadly oblong, rounded at the tip, distinctly spotted with red-purple from the base to the middle. *Lip* one inch long, pure white, exactly ovoid, with a contracted mouth. *Staminode* transversely oblong, apiculate, white, with an irregular yellow disk.—*J. D. H.*