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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

SIR JOSEPH DALTON HOOKER, M.D., C.B., K.C.S.I.,

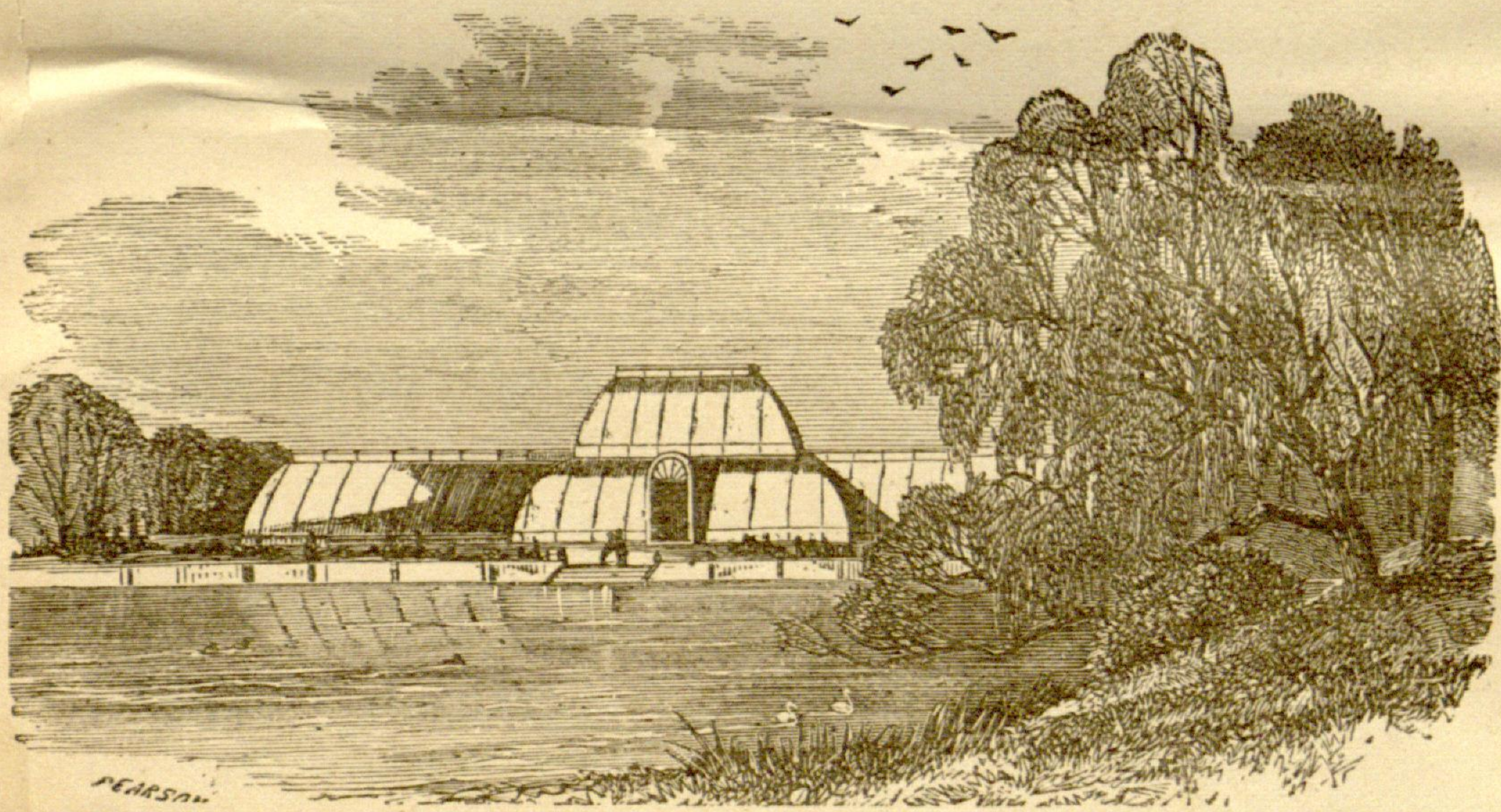
F.R.S., F.L.S., ETC.,

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

VOL. LI.

OF THE THIRD SERIES.

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



“Nor is the mead unworthy of thy foot,
Full of fresh verdure and unnumbered flowers,
The negligence of Nature wide and wild.”

THOMSON.

LONDON:

L. REEVE & CO.,

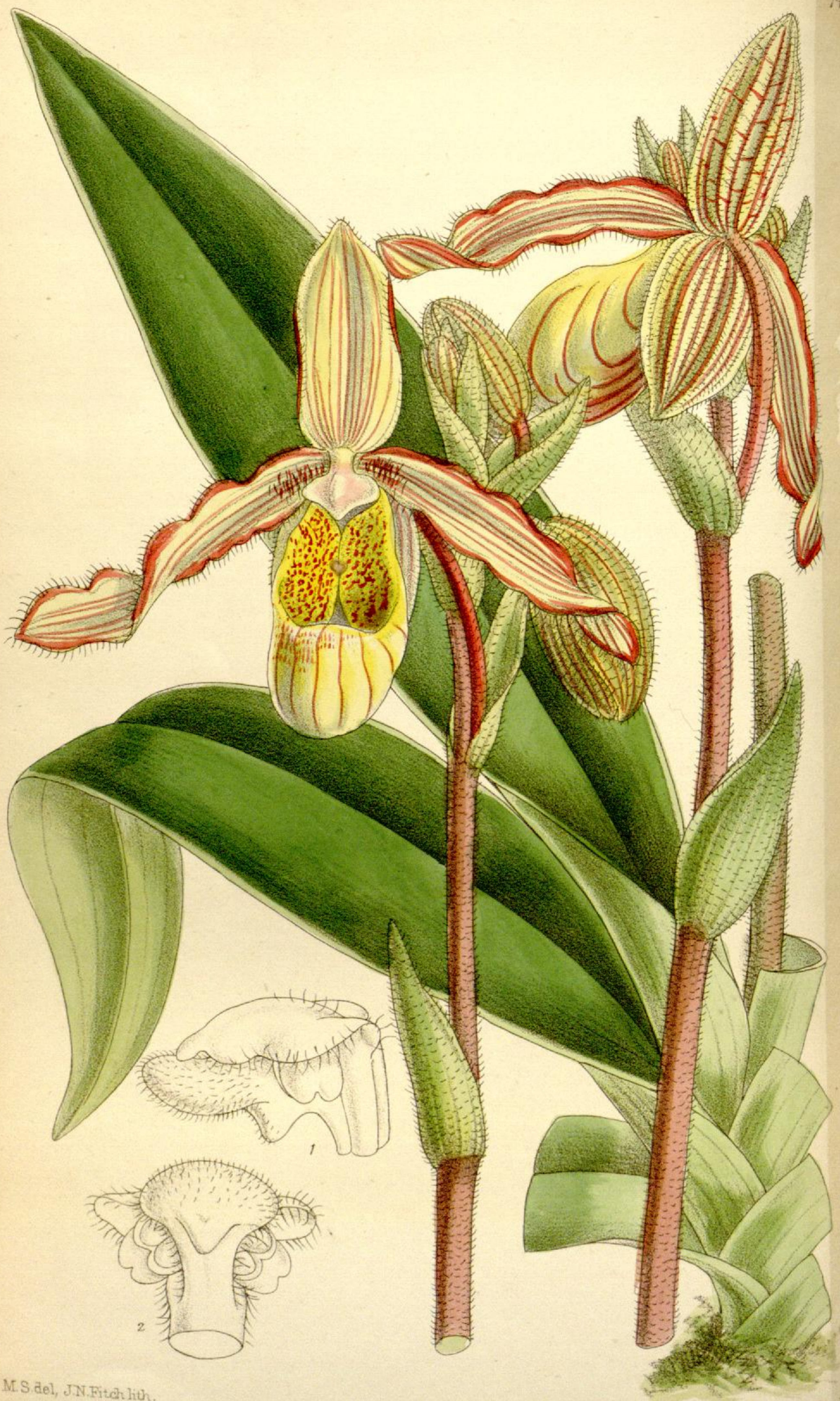
Publishers to the Home, Colonial, and Indian Governments,
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1895.

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Mo. Bot. Garden,

1898.



M.S. del, J.N. Fitch lith.

Vincent Brooks, Day & Son imp.

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SELENIPEDIUM SARGENTIANUM.

Native of Brazil.

Nat. Ord. ORCHIDÆ.—Tribe CYPRIPIEDIEÆ.

Genus SELENIPEDIUM, *Reichb. f.*; (*Benth. & Hook. f. Gen. Plant.* vol. iii. p. 635.)

SELENIPEDIUM *Sargentianum*; foliis radicalibus oblongo-lanceolatis acutis basi equitantibus coriaceis aureo marginatis, scapo robusto hirsuto apice 2-4-floro fusco-rubro, vaginis solitariis bracteisque magnis ovato-cymbiformibus herbaceis obtusis viridibus hirsutis, perianthio hirsutulo, sepalis lateralibus in laminam ovatam obtusam 2-nervosam rubro-striatam labello suppositam connatis, dorsali oblongo obtuso rubro striato, petalis sepalis longioribus loriformibus obtusis subtortis aureis sanguineo striatis et late marginatis, labello oblongo aureo apice rotundato lateribus late inflexis orem oblongam claudentibus rubro maculatis marginibus tuberculo minuto albo ornatis, staminodio pallido late ovato pubescente.

S. Sargentianum, *Rolfe in Orchid Review*, vol. i. (1893), p. 239. *Gard. Chron.* 1894, vol. i. p. 781, fig. 100.

Under his description of this beautiful plant in the *Orchid Review*. Mr. Rolfe has pointed out its close relationship to *Selenipedium Lindleyi*, *Reichb. f.*, and a comparison of the figures of the flowers of the two species shows that the forms of all their parts are almost identical. The most conspicuous differences between them are the great size and robustness of *S. Lindleyi*, which attains three feet in height, the length of its leaves, upwards of two feet long, the more numerous flowers disposed in a raceme, their colour pale or light green with red-brown nerves, and the absence of the two opposite contiguous white tubercles in the margin of the inflexed portions of the lip. The habitats of these two species are widely apart, *S. Lindleyanum* being (as far as is known) confined to Guiana, where it was discovered by Sir Robert Schomburgk in grassy swamps of the interior half a century ago, whereas *S. Sargentianum* is a native of the Pernambuco province of Brazil, no doubt from its mountainous interior, and probably from the chain of the Cariris or Tabatinga, which are clothed with forests. Of

the two *S. Sargentianum* is by far the most beautiful, indeed it may prove to be the gem of the genus in point of coloration. It may be suggested that when the intermediate tracts of country between Guiana and Pernambuco are explored, intermediate forms will be found; if so, the supposed species would fall under the denomination of geographical forms. As it is, the intervention of the vast low valley of the Amazons between their dwelling places appears to me to render such evidence improbable. *S. Sargentianum* was obtained in 1892 by the Royal Gardens from Messrs. F. Sander & Co. of St. Alban's, who imported it, and with whom it flowered in a tropical orchid house in February, 1895. It is named in honour of Prof. C. S. Sargent, Director of the Harvard Arboretum, Boston, U.S., and editor of "Garden and Forest."

Descr.—*Stem* short, tufted, clothed with the equitant bases of the distichous leaves, erect; root of stout fibres. *Leaves* six to eight inches long by one and a half broad, oblong-lanceolate, acuminate, coriaceous, bright yellow with golden margins, deeply sulcate along the mesial line above, keeled beneath, nerves obscure. *Scape* six inches high, as thick as a goose-quill, two- to three-flowered, laxly hairy, as are the sheaths; bracts pedicels and ovaries red brown, bracts on the scape and flowers one and a half to two inches long, ovate-lanceolate, subacute, green, herbaceous. *Flowers* two to three at the top of the scape, three and a half inches broad across the petals. *Dorsal sepal* erect, oblong, acute, pale yellow, with five strong bright red dorsal ribs united by cross nervules; lateral united into an ovate subacute blade placed under the lip. *Petals* much longer than the sepals, spreading and rather deflexed, strap-shaped, subtwisted, undulate, ciliate, streaked with red, margins bright red. *Lip* an inch and a half long, slipper-shaped, tip rounded, yellow with pale red veins, mouth oblong, sides deflexed in the mouth, lobes meeting by their margins, speckled with red, and with a minute white tubercle on the margin of each. *Staminode* broadly ovate, hairy, pale yellow.—*J. D. H.*

Fig. 1, Side and 2, dorsal view of staminode:—*Both enlarged.*