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CURTIS'S
BOTANICAL MAGAZINE,

ILLUSTRATING AND DESCRIBING

Plants of the Royal Botanic Gardens of Kew,
AND OF OTHER BOTANICAL ESTABLISHMENTS;

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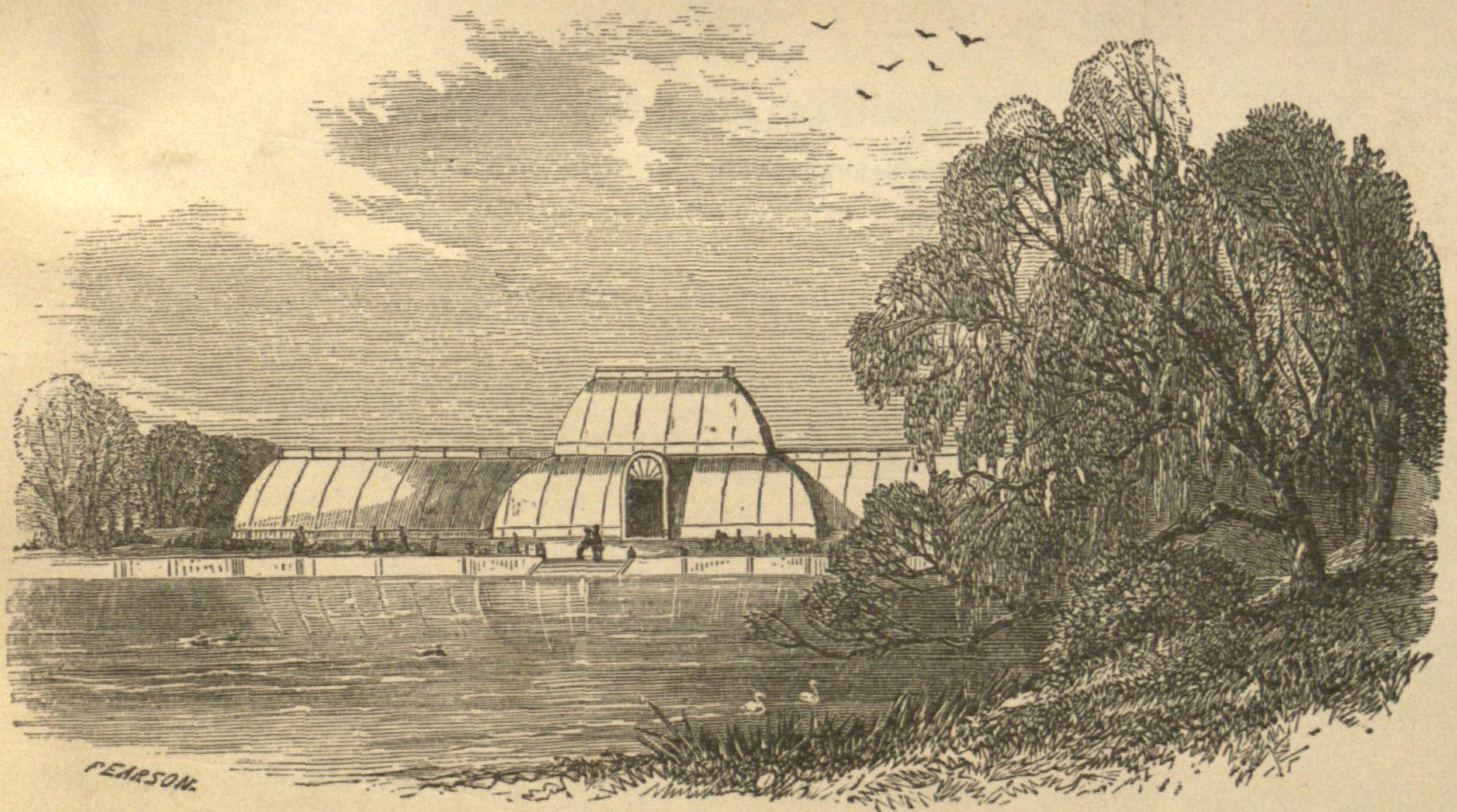
SIR WILLIAM TURNER THISELTON-DYER, LL.D., Sc.D.,
K.C.M.G., C.I.E., F.R.S., F.L.S., ETC.,

LATE DIRECTOR, ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW.

VOL. II.

OF THE FOURTH SERIES.

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



Now, did I not so near my labours end,
Strike sail, and hastening to the harbour tend,
My song to flowery gardens might extend—
To teach the vegetable arts, to sing
The Pæstum roses, and their double spring.
The late narcissus, and the winding trail
Of bear's-foot, myrtles green, and ivy pale.

DRYDEN'S VIRGIL.

LONDON:

LOVELL REEVE & CO., LTD.,

Publishers to the Home, Colonial, and Indian Governments.

6, HENRIETTA STREET, COVENT GARDEN

1906.

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MO. BOT. GARDEN.

1906



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

Vincent Brooks Day & Son Lit^d Imp

L. Reeve & C^o London.

CYPRIPEDIUM TIBETICUM.

Eastern Tibet and Western China.

ORCHIDACEÆ. Tribe CYPRIPEDIÆ.

CYPRIPEDIUM. *Linn.*; *Benth. et Hook. f. Gen. Plant.* vol. iii. p. 634, ex parte; *Pfitzer in Engl. & Prantl. Pflanzenf.* vol. ii. 6, p. 82.

Cypripedium tibeticum, *King ex Rolfe in Journ. Linn. Soc.* vol. xxix. p. 320; vol. xxxvi. p. 66; *Franch. in Journ. de Bot.* 1894, p. 250; *King & Pantling in Ann. R. Bot. Gard. Calc.* vol. viii. p. 341, t. 447; *Rolfe in Orch. Rev.* 1905, p. 194; aff. *C. macrantho*, Swartz, sed segmentis reticulato-venosis, et staminodio late cordato-ovato nec trulliformi differt.

Herba terrestris, $\frac{1}{2}$ – $1\frac{1}{4}$ ped. alta. *Caules* erecti, pubescentes, 3–4-phylli, basi vaginis 2 vel 3 inæqualibus obtecti, apice uniflori. *Folia* ovata vel ovato-oblonga, acuta vel subobtusa, membranacea, plicata, puberula et ciliata, subsessilia, 2–5 poll. longa, $\frac{3}{4}$ – $2\frac{3}{4}$ poll. lata. *Bracteæ* ovatæ, acutæ vel acuminatæ, concavæ, foliaceæ, $1\frac{1}{2}$ –3 poll. longæ. *Flores* magni, rubro-purpureo-striati et reticulati, labello et staminodio atro-purpureo suffusis. *Sepalum* posticum late ovatum, acutum, concavum, $1\frac{1}{4}$ – $1\frac{3}{4}$ poll. longum; sepala lateralia connata, quam posticum minora. *Petala* elliptica vel ovato-lanceolata, acuminata, $1\frac{1}{2}$ –2 poll. longa. *Labellum* ventricosum, globosum, $1\frac{1}{4}$ –2 poll. longum, ore semicirculari. *Columna* $\frac{3}{4}$ poll. longa; staminodium late ovatum, obtusum, convexum, 6–7 lin. longum.—*C. macranthon* var. *ventricosum*, Hook. f. *Fl. Brit. Ind.* vol. vi. p. 170, non Carrière.

This handsome *Cypripedium* was discovered as long ago as 1879, at Pitzala, in the province of Chumbi, by a native collector of Sir George King, when it received the manuscript name now adopted. It was, however, not published, and for about thirteen years the plant was regarded as a form of the Siberian *C. macranthon*, Swartz, before its differential characters were pointed out. At this time it was shown that a Himalayan species had also been included under *C. macranthon*, to which the name *C. himalaicum*, Rolfe, was given. Both were subsequently collected by Pantling, Pratt, and Wilson, while one or the other has also been obtained by other collectors. The first-named was successfully introduced to cultivation by Mr. E. H. Wilson, Collector for Messrs. James Veitch & Sons, who brought home plants from Tachienlu, in Western Szechuen, near the Tibetan border. These arrived in April, 1905, and flowered with the importers in the following June, when the accompanying plate was prepared. Mr. Wilson remarks that the species is very common on the mountains

around Tachienlu, at elevations between 10,000 and 12,000 feet, and that the flowers are usually very much darker in a wild state than here shown.

Notwithstanding the evident distinctness of this species from *C. macranthon*, Swartz (B. M. t. 2938), it is not easy to put the distinction into words, beyond the very obvious difference in colour and the shape of the staminode, but the lip of *C. macranthon* is corrugated round the mouth. Mr. Wilson, who has collected both species and seen them growing in enormous quantities, states that they are very distinct, both geographically, and in their morphological characters. The difficulty is that some of these characters become obliterated in the process of drying for the Herbarium.

The species will doubtless succeed under similar cultural treatment to that given to *C. macranthon*.

Descr.—A terrestrial herb from about half to a foot and a quarter high. *Stems* erect, pubescent, bearing three to four leaves, and at the base two or three reduced more or less tubular sheaths. *Leaves* ovate or ovate-oblong, acute or subobtuse, membranaceous, plicate, puberulous, and ciliate, subsessile, two to five inches long, three-quarters to two and three-quarter inches broad. *Bracts* ovate, acute, or acuminate, concave, more or less leaf-like, an inch and a half to three inches long. *Flowers* solitary, terminal, nearly four inches across, striped and reticulated with reddish purple on a paler ground, staminode and front of lip suffused with dark purple. *Dorsal sepal* broadly ovate, acute, concave, one and a quarter to one and three-quarter inches long; lower sepal rather smaller. *Petals* elliptical or ovate-lanceolate, acuminate, an inch and a half to two inches long. *Lip* ventricose, globose, an inch and a quarter to two inches long; mouth semi-circular. *Column* three-quarters of an inch long; staminode broadly ovate, obtuse, convex, about half an inch long.—R. A. ROLFE.

Fig. 1, vertical section of lip; 2 and 3, column seen from the front and side, showing the staminode, stamens and stigma:—2, *natural size*, the rest *magnified*.