

Notes on the Colonial Botanic Garden Wellington
and its Flora

The garden is situated on the low hills to the southwest of Thorndon district of Wellington. The enclosure now fenced in amounts to about 80. acres, having several spurs and vallies with a north to south exposure.

Vegetes of the original bush vegetation still exist in the vallies, but the spurs have been denuded of the larger trees, and are now covered by scrub and patches of grass. the whole of this area is now intersected by numerous roads, and paths measuring over 5 miles in length, which have opened up to the visitor many fine reaches of sylvan beauty in the watered vallies; and pleasant contour walks on the spurs in the open land.

From the higher ground of the garden which attains an altitude of 3 to 400 feet above the sea, may be viewed a grandeur of scenery perhaps unsurpassed of the kind in New Zealand. North and Easterly lies the fine Harbour of Port Nicholson bounded by crowding ranges of hills in the middle distance, with a back-ground of mountains 3. to 6000 feet altitude, among them the Tararua which is often covered with snow, to the East and southerly, are seen the city and low hills of the coast range, and the great southern ocean beyond, and westerly the view is bounded by the hills in that direction.

The adaptability of the garden as a recreation ground for the citizens of Wellington is obvious, and a privilege of which they may feel proud.

The indigenous vegetation of the ground before enclosure was much destroyed, the number of species being less as compared with that of the surrounding district, no doubt caused by the axe of the squatter and cattle grazing.

the land as a common, unfortunately the medium sized trees have been cut down as firewood, and the larger sized are fast disappearing by rot, and other causes of decay continually operating in the New Zealand bush. in this case the normal conditions of replenishment, have been violated by the destruction of the younger plants, and no doubt in a few years there will be a marked absence of large trees.

The chief cause of rot in the larger trees, is a luxuriant growth of Epiphytes on the branches, it is not uncommon to see on one tree, 50 bunches of *Artelia cunninghamii* or *Artelia solandri*, each bunch weighing not less than 20. lbs. composed of vegetable matter and water, the latter contained in the folds of the leaves, if to this be added hoots of Orchids, Mosses, lichens, twiners, &c. an accumulated weight is built on the branches which breaks and splits them, thus opening by rents and holes a passage for water, which soon produces decay and death.

Insects are also busy in aiding the destruction of trees, as an instance, the larvae of *Hepialus* - sp. have within the last few years destroyed many of the larger specimens of the shrub-tree *Aristolelia racemosa*, this caterpillar bores a large hole round the tree and underneath the bark, which stops the circulation of the sap and kills the plant.

Another method of attack is made by a small green beetle (*Popronetta festiva*) which appears in myriads during the heat of summer, and devours the entire foliage of the *Manuka*, (*Leptospermum ericoides*) fortunately the cold winds of autumn destroy the pest, and the plants recover and put on a fresh foliage before winter, although they are checked in growth and a few die.

Having now given a general outline description of the garden and the state of the indigenous flora when

enclosed, a detailed list of the species found there and those introduced since from other parts of New Zealand will be added, as also a list of the exotics whether as accidental weeds or introduced for purposes of ornament or use. To add more interest to the subject, the whole will be divided into Groups and the Maori names of the New Zealand plants given when known.

Group 1. The larger trees.

Few genera are represented in this group, and the number of species and individual plants are also few.

Siliaceae

Elaeocarpus dentatus. Vahl. Hoimaui. Cunn.

Myrtaceae

Metrosideros robusta. A. Cunn. Patete. Cunn.

Monimiaceae

Atherosperma moae zealandiae. Hook. fil. Pukatea. Cunn.

Proteaceae

Knightsia excolosa. Br. Rewarewa. Col.

Coniferae

Podocarpus ferruginea. Don. Miro. Cunn.

Dacrydium cupressinum. Sol. Rimua. Col.

Group 2. Shrubs, trees, and young specimens of the larger trees.

This group is well represented and contains many highly ornamental plants.

Magnoliaceae

Drimys axillaris. Forst. Horopito. Col.

Violaceae

Melicope ramiflora Forst. Mahoe. Col.

Pittosporae

Pittosporum tenuifolium. Banks & Sol. Rautawhiri. Col.

" *eugenioides*. A. Cunn. Tarata. Col.

" *dacrydoides*, A. Rich. Kahikatea

Mabaceae

Hoheria populnea. A. Cunn.

" var. *lanceolata*. Houhere. Col.

Siliaceae

Aristotelia racemosa Hook. fil. Mako. Cunn.

Rutaceae

Melicope ternata Forst. Tataka. W. M.

" *mantellii*. Buch. Patete

Meliaceae

Dysoxylum spectabile Hook. fil. Hohe-kohu. Col.

Placineae

Pennantia corymbosa Forst. Kaikomako. Col.

Sapindaceae

Albizia excelsa D. C. Titoki. Col.

Sacifragae

Carpodetus serratus Forst. Pūpūwhata. R. Cunn.

Weinmannia racemosa Forst. Tawhero. Col.

Myrtaceae

Leptospermum scoparium Forst. Kahikatea. Col.

" *ericioides* A. Rich. Manuka. Col.

Myrtus bullata Banks & Sol. Ramarama. Cunn.

M. obtusifolia *ralphii* Hook. fil. Pohutu. Cunn.

Eugenia maire. A. Cunn. Mairetawaka. Cunn.

Onagraceae

Fuchsia acorticata Linn. fil. Kohutukutuku. Col.

Araliaceae

Panax edgerleyi. Hook. fil. Pauraua. Col.

" *crassifolium* Dene & Ranke. Horoska. Col.

" *arborescens* Forst. Whauwhaupaku. Col.

Schefflera digitata Forst. Patete. Patete. R. Cunn.

Rubiaceae

Coprosma lucida Forst. Hakaramu. Col.

" *grandifolia* Hook. fil. Hakaramu

- Coprosma robusta*. Raoul. Karamu. Col.
- " *cunninghamii*. Hook. fil. Karamu. Col.
- " *tenuicaulis*. Hook. fil.
- " *divaricata*. A. Cunn.
- " *foetidissima*. Forst. Karanqu. Col.

Compositae

- Olearia cunninghamii* Hook. fil. Akewharangi
- " *forsteri*. Hook. fil. Akapirau. Col.
- Cassinia leptophylla* Br. Taurhina W. M.
- Brachyglottis repanda*. Forst. Rangiora W. M.

Ericaceae

- Leucopogon fasciculatus*. A. Rich. Mingimingi. Col.

Myrsinaceae

- Myrsine ovalis*. Howard
- " *uvillii* A. D. C. Mapau. Col.

Loganiaceae

- Geniostoma ligustrifolia* A. Cunn. Hangehange Col.

Solanaceae

- Solanum aviculare*. Forst. Poroporo. Col.

Scrophulariaceae

- Veronica parviflora*. Vahl. Koromiko Bid.
- " *arborescens* Buch. Koromiko. Bid.

Verbenaceae

- Myoporum laetum* Forst. Ngais. Col.

Laurineae

- Nesodaphne tawa* Hook. fil. Tawa. Cunn.

Monimiaceae

- Hymenocallis dentata*. Forst. Kaiwhiria. Col.

Santalaceae

- Santalum cunninghamii* Hook. fil. Maire. Col.

Urticaceae

- Epilobium microphyllum* Raoul. Tawaapou.

Piperaceae

- Piper excelsum*. Forst. Kawakawa. Col.

~~Asclepiadaceae~~
~~*Platycodon grandiflorus* A. Linn. Taurhina. Col.~~
~~" *grandiflorus* A. Rich. Taurhina. Col.~~
 Group. 3. Twiners.

The twiners are a very interesting and ornamental group, adding much to the beauty of the New Zealand bush, they are abundant everywhere, some of them ascending the highest trees or trailing on the ground and attaching everything near for support. the following are found in the garden.

Ranunculaceae

- Clematis indivisa*. Willd. Puwhananga. Col.
- " *hexasepala*. D. C. Puwhananga Col.
- " *colensoi* Hook. fil. Pikiarero Col.

Rosaceae

- Rubus australis*. Forst. var. a. glaber.)
- var. b. schmideloides } Tauramoa. Col.
- var. c. cissoides }

Myrtaceae

- Metrosideros florida*. Sm. Patapiki. Col.
- " *hypericifolia* A. Cunn. Akakura. Col.
- " *colensoi* Hook. fil. Akakura. Col.
- " *scandens*. Banks & Sol. Akakura. Col.

Passifloraceae

- Passiflora ligularis*. Banks & Sol. Pohinui.

Apocynaceae

- Parsonsia albiflora* Raoul. Haiku. Col.
- " *rosea*. Raoul. Haiku. Col.

Polygonaceae

- Muhlenbeckia adpressa*. Lab. Pohuehue. D.
- " *complexa* Meisn. Pohuehue. D.

Liliaceae

- Rhipogonum scandens*. Forst. Hareao. Col.

Group. 4. Epiphytes.

Some of the species in this group attain a considerable size such as *Griselinia lucida*, a very showy shrub when ~~grown in the garden~~ ^{cultivated on the ground}, others as the orchids, although individually small make up by numbers and are often found covering large branches, they are very showy and fragrant, and common in the garden although often overlooked from the elevation of their habitats.

Pittosporaceae

Pittosporum cornifolium A. Cunn. Haro. Col.

Compositae

Griselinia lucida Forst. Pukatea Col. ?

Orchideae

Garinia mucronata Lindl.

" *autumnalis* Hook. fil.

Dendrobium cunninghamii Lindl. } Maitikikai. Col.

Bolbophyllum pygmaeum Lindl.

Sarcochilus adversus Hook. fil.

Liliaceae

Stelia cunninghamii Hook. fil. Howharawhara. Col.

" *ostlandii* A. Cunn. Howharawhara. Col.

Group. 5. Parasites

This showy order is poorly represented in the Garden, 3 species only having been found, and it is probable that the first two will soon disappear on the death of their hosts.

Loranthaceae

Loranthus micranthus Hook. fil.

Supera antarctica Cham & Schl. Pirite Col.

Viscum salicornioides A. Cunn. Tauriki. D.

Group. 6. Herbaceous plants.

This group includes all the inconspicuous plants, the most of whom have little floral show to recommend them, but possess much botanical interest.

Ranunculaceae

Ranunculus ^{plebeius, Ba.} *rivularis* Banks. & Sol.

" *parviflorus* Linn. var. *australis*.

Cruciferae

Cardamine hirsuta Linn. var. *a.* Panapana. Col.

Caryophyllaceae

Stellaria parviflora Banks & Sol.

Geraniaceae

Geranium dissectum Linn. var. *carolinianum* Panakitea Col.

" *sessiliflorum* Cav. ?

" *molle* Linn.

Rosaceae

Steaena sanguivora Vahl. Kutiwai. Piripiri. Col.

Haloragaceae

Haloragis alata Jacq. Toatoa. Col.

" *depressa* Hook. fil. ?

Onagraceae

Epilobium nummularifolium A. Cunn.

" *rotundifolium* Forst.

" *pubens* A. Rich.

Umbelliferae

Hydrocotyle elongata A. Cunn.

" *moschata* Forst.

" *asiatica* Linn.

Vertera dichondraefolia Hook. fil.

Compositae

Pittadenia australis A. Rich.

Lagenophora proterii D. C. Papataniwhaniwha

Cotula coronopifolia Linn.

" *australis* Hook. fil.

Craspedia fimbriata. D.C. Puatea.

Gnaphalium filicaule. Hook. fil.

" *lutes-album*. Linn.

" *involutatum*. Forst. } *collinum*

Erechtites prenanthoides. D.C.

" *scaberrima*. Hook. fil.

Sonchus oleraceus. Linn. Poroua. Col.

Campanulaceae

Wahlenbergia gracilis. A. Rich.

Paronychiaceae

Scleranthus biflorus. Hook. Kohukshu. Puwaka. Col.

Urticaceae

Urtica incisa. Poiret. Ongeonga.

Orchideae

Microtis porrifolia. Spreng.

Pterostylis banksii. Ba.

" *graminea*. Hook. fil.

" *trullifolia*. Hook. fil.

Thelymitra longifolia. Forst.

" *pulchella*. Hook. fil.

Praosphyllum cotoneoi. Hook. fil. ?

Iridaceae

Libertia ixioides. Spreng. Turutu. Ly.

Liliaceae

Dianella intermedia. Endl. Turutu. D.

Group. 7. Introduced indigenous plants.

Include all the native species which have been introduced into the garden since enclosure, some of them are still common in the surrounding country, and previously no doubt were also to be found here.

The alpine veronicas are well represented in this group, the alpine species being free flowerers as also attractive by their fine foliage, they require great attention and soon die out if not frequently renewed from cuttings.

The following list contains some very ornamental Shrub-trees and Shrubs.

Magnoliaceae

Drimys colorata. Raul. Hooipiti. Col.

Pittosporae

Pittosporum crassifolium. Banks. & Sol.

" *patulum*. Hook. fil.

Tilliaceae

~~*Entelea arborescens*. Ba. Whau. Col.~~

Sapindaceae

Dodonea viscosa. Forst. Ake. Col.

Anacardiaceae

Corynocarpus laevigata. Forst. Karaka. Col.

Leguminosae

~~*Araliaceae*~~ *Sophora tetraaptera*. Aiton. var. *a. grandiflora*. Kowhai. Col.

~~*Corneae*~~ *Panea crassifolium* Dene & Planch

Griselinia littoralis. Raul. Pukatea.

Corokia buddleioides. A. Cunn. Korokia-taranga. Col.

Compositae

Plectranthia colensoi. Hook. fil.

" ~~*fulviflora*~~ *Hook. fil.*

" *ilicifolia*. Hook. fil.

" *nitida*. Hook. fil.

" *nummularifolia*. Hook. fil.

" *albida*. Hook. fil.

" *virgata*. Hook. fil. var. ?

" *colandrii*. Hook. fil.

Oxothamnus glomeratus. Hook. fil.

" *microphyllus*. Hook. fil.

" *selago*. Hook. fil.

Senecio glaucifolius. Hook. fil. Hakika.

" *perdicoides*. Hook. fil.

" *laeagnifolius*. Hook. fil.

" ~~*Bidartii*~~ *Hook. fil.*

" *laxifolius* Buch.

" *hectori*. Buch.