

dealt with in this work. Although Orchids are either absent or very rare in all oceanic islands, their total absence from Juan Fernandez is remarkable, because there are several in the Falklands, which are nearly as far from the mainland; and in the islands lying near New Zealand (Lord Auckland, Campbell, and Chatham Islands) there is nearly as large a proportion as in the main island. Coniferæ, too, are wholly absent, as in the Auckland, Campbell, and other islands near New Zealand, as well as in all of the islands coming within the scope of this work, from Fernando Noronha to Amsterdam and St Paul Islands.

In addition to the collections of Juan Fernandez plants mentioned at p. 2, a small one has recently been presented to the Kew Herbarium by Messrs Veitch, nurserymen, of King's Road, Chelsea. This collection was made by Mr. Downton, who travelled for the firm named, and whose special mission was the introduction of living plants of an ornamental character. It comprises between thirty and forty species, including one, *Convolvulus tuguriorum*, not in any of the other collections. They were partly from Juan Fernandez and partly from Masafuera. We have also seen living plants of *Dendroseris macrophylla*, *Wahlenbergia tuberosa* (of which only the foliage was known before), and *Libertia formosa*, introduced by Mr Downton from Masafuera.

In conclusion, we have one more source of information to record. It is the book entitled *Crusoniana, or Truth versus Fiction, elucidated in a History of the Islands of Juan Fernandez* by the retired Governor of that Colony, a copy of which was purchased for the Kew Library while these sheets were undergoing revision. The author of this remarkable book, which was published in 1843, was Thomas Sutcliffe, an Englishman, who was Governor for a time during the period Juan Fernandez was used by the Chilian Government as a penal settlement. Besides the author's personal knowledge, it contains a condensed history of the island from various sources, commencing with an account of Alexander Selkirk's sojourn there. We have extracted two or three interesting notes on the vegetation.