

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1873

## FOREIGN ORDERS OF MERIT

IN a recent number of NATURE (vol. viii. p. 292) we intimated that honours had been conferred upon a large number of British men of science by the Emperor of Brazil and the King of Sweden. Some of the gentlemen to whom these Foreign Orders have been offered have, however, thought it right to refuse acceptance of them, mainly from loyalty to Her Majesty's stringent regulations respecting Foreign Orders, as issued by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. A correspondent, who has himself refused to accept the Foreign Orders alluded to in our note, has favoured us with a copy of these regulations, and as many people are ignorant of their nature, or are even unaware that any such regulations exist, we shall be doing a service by giving them publicity in our columns. These "Regulations respecting Foreign Orders" are dated Foreign Office, May 10, 1855, and are as follows:—

"1. No subject of Her Majesty shall accept a Foreign Order from the Sovereign of any foreign country, or wear the Insignia thereof, without having previously obtained Her Majesty's permission to that effect, signified by a Warrant under her Royal Sign-Manual.

"2. Such permission shall not be granted to any subject of Her Majesty, unless the Foreign Order shall have been conferred in consequence of active and distinguished service before the enemy, either at sea or in the field; or unless he shall have been actually and entirely employed, beyond Her Majesty's dominions, in the service of the Foreign Sovereign by whom the Order is conferred.

"3. The intention of a Foreign Sovereign to confer upon a British subject the insignia of an Order must be notified to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, either through the British Minister accredited to the Court of such Foreign Sovereign, or through his Minister accredited at the Court of Her Majesty.

"4. If the service for which it is proposed to confer the Order has been performed during war, the notification required by the preceding clause must be made not later than two years after the exchange of the ratifications of a Treaty of Peace.

"If the service has been performed in time of peace, the notification must be made within two years after the date of such service.

"5. After such notification shall have been received, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs shall, if the case comes within the conditions prescribed by the present regulations, and arises from naval or military services before the enemy, refer it to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the War Department, previously to taking Her Majesty's pleasure thereupon, in order to ascertain whether there be any objection to Her Majesty's permission being granted.

"A similar reference shall also be made to the Commander-in-Chief if the application relates to an officer in the Army, or to the Lords of the Admiralty if it relates to an officer in the Navy.

"6. When Her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs shall have taken the Queen's pleasure on any such application, and shall have obtained Her Majesty's permission for the person in whose favour it has been made to accept the Foreign Order, and wear the Insignia thereof, he shall signify the same to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department, in order that he may cause the warrant required by Clause 1 to be prepared for the Royal Sign-Manual.

"When such warrant shall have been signed by the Queen, a notification thereof shall be inserted in the *Gazette*, stating the service for which the Foreign Order has been conferred.

"7. The warrant signifying Her Majesty's permission may, at the request and at the expense of the person who has obtained it, be registered in the College of Arms.

"8. Every such warrant as aforesaid shall contain a clause providing that Her Majesty's licence and permission does not authorise the assumption of any style, appellation, rank, precedence, or privilege appertaining to a knight bachelor of Her Majesty's realms.

"9. When a British subject has received the Royal permission to accept a Foreign Order, he will at any future time be allowed to accept the decoration of a higher class of the same order, to which he may have become eligible by increase of rank in the Foreign Service, or in the service of his own country; or any other distinctive mark of honour strictly consequent upon the acceptance of the original Order, and common to every person upon whom such Order is conferred.

"10. The preceding clause shall not be taken to apply to decorations of the Guelphic Order, which were bestowed on British subjects by Her Majesty's predecessors King George IV. and King William IV., on whose heads the crowns of Great Britain and of Hanover were united.

"Decorations so bestowed cannot properly be considered as rewards granted by a Foreign Sovereign for services rendered according to the purport of Clause 2 of these Regulations. They must be rather considered as personal favours bestowed on British subjects by British Sovereigns, and as having no reference to services rendered to the Foreign Crown of Hanover."

Having given these Regulations, we may be permitted, perhaps, to make some remarks upon them. It will be seen that so far as scientific men, as such, are concerned, they are positively interdicted from accepting Orders offered to them by a foreign sovereign except in the improbable case of their doing scientific work for such a sovereign. On the face of them it is evident that they are the product of a time when it was thought that such rewards gained otherwise than on the field of battle might be open to suspicion. We can well understand that there may be reasons why diplomatists, projectors, and the like are better without such Orders, but these reasons do not apply to men of culture, whom a king might delight to honour for work done for mankind at large.

It is clear, therefore, either that the triumphs of Science and her followers were little known or were unappreciated when these Orders were issued, or that such possible recipients were purposely excluded. But are not the triumphs achieved by scientific men over the multitudinous forces of nature of infinitely more importance to humanity, and far more conducive to the highest glory of any country, than the greatest military triumphs that soldiers have ever achieved? Indeed, to what is it supposed that the dirt art of war itself has reached its present state of comparative perfection, if not to the advantage which has been taken of the discoveries of Science? And does not the military superiority of one nation over another depend almost entirely on the thoroughness with which scientific theories have been applied to army organisation and the *matériel* of war?

It seems to us unjust and cruel that men of science, to whose labours it is mainly owing that our country and the world generally are mounting rapidly higher and higher in the scale of civilisation, should be practically debarred from accepting the few honours that come in

their way. Moreover, we should think that those who have the framing of these Regulations ought to be proud to think that our country produces so many men of science whom foreign sovereigns delight to honour, and instead of throwing obstructions in the way, should afford every reasonable facility to those who are thus honoured to accept and wear the Foreign Orders which may be offered to them. We cannot see that in any way their doing so would endanger the safety of the country nor be derogatory to the dignity and honour of our sovereign. May we not hope, then, that these Regulations as to Foreign Orders should not for ever remain as they are? They certainly permit one to infer that the only glory which those who promulgate them desire to see shed upon their country, is the barbarous glory which can be gained by a good fighter.

We shall be glad to receive the opinions of scientific men on this question.

#### LUBBOCK'S "MONOGRAPH OF THE COLLEMBOLA AND THYSANURA"

*Monograph of the Collembola and Thysanura.* By Sir John Lubbock, Bart., M.P., &c. Pp. 265. Seventy-eight plates. (Printed for the Ray Society: 1873.)

THE insects which constitute the Linnæan genus *Podura*, though small and apparently insignificant, present many interesting peculiarities of structure, and still more interesting characters bearing on the great problem of the true affinities and historical evolution of insects generally. They have, however, been comparatively neglected, and those who have worked at their classification have often done so in ignorance of each other's labours, so that the nomenclature of the group is confused. Sir John Lubbock has patiently investigated the characters of the British species, and compared them with those given by Gervais, Nicolet, Bourlet, and Tullberg. The genera he has been led to adopt are arranged in a tabular form on page 39. He gives good reasons for separating *Podura*, *Degveria*, *Sminthurus*, and their allies from *Lepisma* and *Campodea*; and, while retaining Latreille's name *Thysanura* for the latter group, proposes for the remainder the new term "*Collembola*" (κόλλα, ζμβολον), in allusion to the projection by which they attach themselves to foreign bodies. If this be adopted, there will be no title to designate all the insects belonging to Latreille's *Thysanura*; but though there is some inconvenience in restricting the meaning of a term already in use, the author would probably hold that the distinctions between the two orders are too great for them to retain with advantage a common name. The change would then be very much like what has been made in separating the herbivorous Cetacea of Cuvier from the rest, giving them a new name, and retaining the old one for the remainder. The relative affinities of either group to other Arthropoda are difficult to decide on. The absence of wings has long, and with ample reason, been discarded by entomologists as a character of importance in classification; the absence of tracheæ, though at first sight more important, does not apply to *Sminthurus* (not *Smynthurus*); the mouth is unlike either the mandibulate or the suctorial type; and the caudal appendage and ventral tube are too peculiar to be of service for com-

parison. On the whole, the author concludes that "if we represent the divisions of the Articulata like the branching of a tree, we must picture the *Collembola* and *Thysanura* as separate branches, though small ones, and much more closely connected with the *Insecta* than with the *Crustacea* and *Arachnida*."\* After the chapters on the previous literature of *Thysanura* and their classification and affinities, comes what to many naturalists will be the most interesting part of the book, a discussion on the evolution of Insects, the origin of wings, and the light thrown on these questions by the study of the groups in hand. It would be impossible to do justice to this chapter in the limits of this article, and it is the less necessary since Sir John Lubbock has lately given our readers an exposition of his views on this subject in the series of papers lately published in these columns on the Metamorphosis of Insects. The remainder of the work consists of a general account of the anatomy of the *Collembola* and *Thysanura*, in which there are numerous exceedingly valuable original observations, and a systematic description of the characters, habitat, manners and customs of the various genera and species at present known, with copious synonymy. The value of the work is further enhanced by an appendix by Mr. Joseph Beck, on the Scales of *Collembola* and *Thysanura*, illustrated by twelve beautiful microscopic drawings, from the hand of the late Mr. Richard Beck. Thus the various points of interest offered by the groups treated of, to the microscopist, the entomologist, and the natural philosopher, are fully illustrated. Beside the figures, most of them coloured, many showing different stages of growth, which illustrate nearly fifty of the species described in the text, there are numerous careful outlines of anatomical details, which supply what is too often neglected by systematic naturalists. The tribute paid by the author to the artist whose intelligent skill has overcome the most grievous obstacles, will be endorsed by all who see these beautiful drawings.

We congratulate the Ray Society on the production of so excellent a work. This and the preceding volume by Prof. Allman on the *Gymnoblasic Hydroids*, will maintain its reputation, and we trust that a society to which we owe such works as Darwin's "*Cirripedia*," Parker's "*Shouldergirdle*," and Huxley's "*Oceanic Hydrozoa*," will continue to make so good a choice of books to publish, and will be still more widely supported than it is.

P. S.

#### MONCKHOVEN'S "PHOTOGRAPHY"

*Traité General de Photographie.* Sixième Edition. Par Dr. v. Monckhoven. Avec figures dans le texte et trois planches photographiques. (Paris, 1873. Georges Masson, Libraire-Editeur, Place de l'École de Médecine.)

THE great advance made by photography as an art, and the yearly increasing number of processes, have made it almost an impossibility for anyone [not professionally engaged as a photographer to keep abreast of the tide of improvement.

\* The relation of both to the *Myriopoda* is expressed in a sentence which some error of the press has rendered unintelligible. It would seem to make the *Collembola*, alone, a group of equal "value" with *Myriopoda*. We may remark here that there are an unusual number of misprints.