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SOME PACIFIC COAST PLANTS SEEN IN ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND

ALICE EASTWOOD*

In early April, 1911, I made my first visit to England. My interest was not in gardens but in the herbariums where the types of the Californian species of plants collected by the early explorers were preserved. What I saw in gardens and parks was casual and incidental. On my way from Liverpool to London I stopped at Warwick chiefly to visit the ruins of Kenilworth Castle made famous by Walter Scott. Warwick Castle was open to visitors under an attendant and the garden under the supervision of a gardener. A fine *Sequoia gigantea* dominated that part of the garden where it grew. The gardener called it *Wellingtonia* when I called it *Sequoia*. Perhaps this tree came from seeds sent by William Lobb shortly after its discovery in the Calaveras Grove. The Oregon Grape, *Berberis* or *Mahonia Aquifolium*, and also *Garrya elliptica* were flourishing and in full bloom. I had expected to see *Ribes sanguineum* which like the other two shrubs had been introduced by early explorers, but I saw none. No *Calochortus* or any of the Brodiaea group was seen at Kew. The orange-colored California lilies were planted amid azaleas at that time out of bloom. The lilies gave color to the green shrubs which protected the tall flower-laden lily stems and concealed the unattractive lower part. This was an appropriate planting that I had never seen in any garden. Almost all kinds of lilies would be benefited by that kind of support. At Hampton Court I was astonished to find a large bed of the white Meadow Foam, *Limnanthes Douglasii*. In Sir Joseph Hooker's place in Surrey where I was invited for luncheon by Lady Hooker, Sir Joseph showed me with great pride a Chinquapin tree, *Castanopsis chrysophylla*, that he had planted after his retirement as Director at Kew. It was taller than any on Mt. Tamalpais, but I have seen much larger trees in Mendocino County. This was shortly before his death at the age of 94. He was working on the genus *Impatiens* up to the last.

At the Royal Gardens at Kew and also at Edinburgh the systematic botanic garden is separated from the park-like areas. Plants arranged in families in formal beds are most interesting and instructive but not beautiful. However at Kew on the scientific side of the separating fence, several species of California *Ceanothus* were attractively planted espalier fashion on the fence and were lovely when in bloom. In a scree at the Edinburgh garden small plants of *Arctostaphylos Hookeri* were very pretty—the only *Arctostaphylos* I saw in England. In both gardens where landscape effect is the chief consideration, the scientific part is not neglected; for all species and varieties are labelled.

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An excellent list could be made from a survey of gardening magazines such as the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, *Gardening Illustrated*, *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society*, *New Flora and Silva*, *Alpine Garden Society Quarterly Bulletin*, and others. Often they are beautifully illustrated and described, but to make such a list would take more time than I would care to give to such an uninteresting job.