

HORTUS SICCUS LONDINENSIS;

OR, A

Collection

OF

DRIED SPECIMENS OF PLANTS,

GROWING WILD WITHIN TWENTY MILES ROUND LONDON,

NAMED ON THE AUTHORITY

OF THE

BANKSIAN HERBARIUM,

AND

OTHER ORIGINAL COLLECTIONS.



By **D. Mariano La-Gasca,**

Late professor and director of the Botanical Garden of Madrid, Foreign member of the Horticultural Society of London, and of many other scientific Academies in Europe.



Herbarium præstat omni icono, necessarium omni Botanico.

LINN. PHIL. BOT. Pag. 7.

IN a Country like England, abounding in all that is necessary for instruction, and more particularly in whatever relates to attaining a knowledge of its vegetable productions, the present work may, perhaps, appear superfluous; which it certainly would be, were its object the advancement of Botanical Science. As, however, the chief aim of its Publication is to assist beginners, and to gratify those lovers of the Science, who, from their other pursuits, cannot devote themselves to the laborious employment of collecting, drying, and arranging in a *Herbarium*, the Plants of their native country, the Author hopes that the Public will find his work of some importance and utility.

Although the study of English Botany is assisted in various ways, by many valuable works written by eminent Botanists, and illustrated with figures skilfully executed, the Catalogue of Plants growing in those places near London, chiefly visited for the purpose of herborizing by beginners in the science living in that City, is still very imperfect. To complete this, with respect to the *Phænogamous Plants*, will be one of the objects of the Author of the present work. Of the Class *Cryptogamia*, only the *Ferns* and *Equisetaceæ* will be noticed, and such other Plants as are employed either in Medicine, or in the Arts.

The **HORTUS SICCUS LONDINENSIS** will contain Specimens of all the above-mentioned plants, growing spontaneously in a radius of 20 miles round London, considering the Royal Exchange as a centre.

It will be published in Parts, each containing 25 plants, fixed on stout yellow wove Post folio. Each Species will be on a separate leaf, and so disposed, that the work may be bound in volumes of four parts without any injury to the specimens. They will be fixed to the paper by means of slips of paper pasted with glue, so that should it be wished to examine the plants more conveniently, they may be removed without any fear of breaking them. With each plant will be given its Systematic Name, being in almost every case the same under which it occurs in the celebrated "ENGLISH FLORA" of Sir *James Edward Smith*; and if at any time another name should be preferred, it will be placed after that given in the above-mentioned work.

With the name of the plant will be given the place or places where it may have been found, and the time of its flowering. It is also proposed to state those places where the same plant is to be met with in Spain, of whose Flora but very little is generally known; thus the Author, whilst satisfying the curiosity of the English Botanist, will, at the same time, be serving those of his own Country who very much desire correct information of the Plants of *Linnaeus*.

Although the Author has studied Botany with unremitting attention for more than 30 years, he does not altogether trust to his own knowledge, and the names of the Plants are given after having been compared with the Herbarium of the immortal Sir *Joseph Banks*, (now in the possession of the celebrated *R. Brown*, Esq.) the plants of which have been compared with those of the original Herbarium of *Linnaeus*, of *Aylmer Bourke Lambert*, Esq. and those of the Messrs. *Sowerby*, who possess the Original Plants from which were executed the Engravings for the "ENGLISH BOTANY." These plants were described by the learned Sir *James Edward Smith*, Author of the "ENGLISH FLORA," and carefully compared with those of the Linnæan Herbarium possessed by the same Author.

The Author, assisted by his two eldest Sons, will every Year be able to publish six parts.

It is intended to publish only 30 Copies of this work by Subscription; should, however, Subscriptions be presented for more than that number, the Author will endeavour in future to collect a greater number of plants than he has hitherto done, in order to satisfy the demand.

Subscriptions for the Work will be received at the House of the Author, 25, *Camden Place, Camden Town*; at the Library of Mr. SALVA, 124, *Regent Street*, and at G. B. SOWERBY'S, F. L. S., 156, *Regent Street*.

It is not required to advance any part of the Subscriptions, which will be paid on receiving the different Parts.

The amount of Subscription to be £1 each Part.

Part the first will be delivered on the 10th of *December*, and the second on the 31st of *January*. In future it is intended to publish one Part every other Month.

MARIANO LA-GASCA.

25, Camden Place, Camden Town.

November 6, 1826.