

some of the mossy plants to this little mould, and they vegetate in it during the proper season. Though these plants be not absolute mosses, they are however nearly related to them in their habit. We reckon among them the *IXIA pumila*; a new plant which we called *DONATIA*; a small *MELANTHIUM*; a minute *OXALIS* and *CALENDULA*; another little dioicous plant, called by us *PHYLLACHNE*, together with the *MNIARUM*, (see Forster, *Nova Genera Plantarum*). These plants, or the greater part of them, have a peculiar growth, particularly adapted to these regions, and fit for forming soil and mould on barren rocks. In proportion as they grow up, they spread into various stems and branches, which lie as close together as possible; they spread new seeds, and at last a large spot is covered; the lowermost fibres, roots, stalks, and leaves, gradually decay and push forth on the top new verdant leaves: The decaying lower parts form a kind of peat, or turf, which gradually changes into mould and soil. The close texture of these plants hinders the moisture below from evaporating, and thus furnishes nutriment to the vegetation above, and clothes at last whole hills and isles with a constant verdure. Among these pumilous plants, some of a greater stature begin to thrive, without in the least prejudicing the growth of these creators of mould and soil. Among these plants we reckon a small *ARBUTUS*, a diminutive myrtle, a little dandelion, a small creeping *CRASSULA*, the common *PINGUICULA alpina*, a yellow variety of the *VIOLA palustris*, the *STATICE armeria*, or sea pink, a kind of burnet, the *RANUNCULUS lapponicus*, the *HOLCUS odoratus*, the common celery, with the *ARABIS heterophylla*. Soon after we observed, in places that are still covered with the above-mentioned mossy plant, a new rush (*JUNCUS triglumis*;) a fine *AMELLUS*, a most beautiful scarlet *CHELONE*, and lastly, even shrubby plants, viz. a scarlet-flowered shrubby plant of a new genus, which we called *EMBOTHRIUM coccineum*; two new kinds of berberis, (*BERBERIS ilicifolia et mitior*;) an arbutus with cuspidated leaves (*ARBUTUS mucronata*;) and lastly, the tree bearing the winter's bark (*DRYMIS winteri*;) which, however, in these rocky barren parts of Terra del Fuego never exceeds the size of a tolerable shrub; whereas in Success Bay, on a gentle sloping ground, in a rich and deep soil, it grows to the size of the largest timber. The falling leaves, the rotting mossy plants, and various other circumstances, increase the mould and form a deeper soil, more and more capable of bearing larger plants. Thus they all enlarge the vegetable system, and rescue new animated parts of the creation from their inactive chaotic state."—F.

END OF VOLUME FOURTEENTH.

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