

allow the delicate leaf to be raised by the hand to the surface of the water without injury."

It is interesting to learn that this wonder of the vegetable creation has been safely conveyed to Europe by Mr. Ellis, and living plants placed by him at Kew, Chiswick, Regent's Park, and the Crystal Palace, so that it will become a familiar object to our countrymen. A leaf that constitutes only a frame-work to regular open spaces, being formed like a window with small panes, does at first astonish us by its novelty, but when we are informed that it grows entirely under water, reflection shows it to be still within the usual order of nature, and what might have been anticipated from consideration of the circumstances. The leaf is constructed somewhat like the lily of the valley, with straight veins meeting by a gentle curvature in the apex, and these regularly crossed by smaller veins at nearly equal distances. Did it grow in the air the inter-spaces would be filled with cellular tissue, and covered with epidermis. Water tends to prevent this growth, and thus leaves the veins like a skeleton leaf. Whoever has examined the common water crowfoot has seen the same phenomena, only there some leaves are on or above the surface of the water, which are like those of other plants, while those underneath, though filamentous, have not the same regular disposition on the meeting together of the fibres which belong to the peculiar venation of the plant. *Ouvirandra* is constantly referred to as an example of what is called a *fenestrate*, window-frame leaf, but the description of it in its native site is peculiarly interesting.

Amidst many botanical notices of an attractive character, and showing Mr. Ellis's love of nature and habit of correct observation, we will select one other—his description of

THE TRAVELLER'S TREE.

"This tree, *Urania speciosa*, is altogether one of the most remarkable that has been discovered in Madagascar. And the extent to which it prevails may be inferred from its native name, *ravinala*, by which it was designated by Sonnerat, its discoverer. *Ravinala* is literally, leaf of the forest, as if it was the leaf by which the forest was characterized, which is the fact where it abounds, though in many parts it is not met with at all. The tree rises from the ground with a thick succulent stem like that of the plantain, or the larger species of *Strelitzia*, to both of which it bears a strong resemblance. It sends