

TAB. XI.

EPIDENDRUM\* STAMFORDIANUM:

LORD STAMFORD'S EPIDENDRUM.

EPIDENDRUM *Stamfordianum*, caulibus incrassatis 2-3 vel 4-phyllis racemis radicalibus multifloris brevioribus; sepalis, petalisque duplo angustioribus, lanceolatis acutis; labelli trilobi columnæ apice connati lobis lateralibus obovatis integris, intermedio unguiculato transverso emarginato lacerato; columnâ dentibus duobus brevibus instructâ: antherâ dorsali.

Description.

STEMS rhizomated, a foot high, bearing from two to four oblong coriaceous LEAVES. SPIKES proceeding from the base of the stems, than which they are considerably longer, terminated by a many-flowered cernuous raceme. SEPALS oval-lanceolate, acute, two-thirds of an inch long, of a dull greenish yellow, with crimson streaks. PETALS linear-lanceolate, not quite half so wide as the sepals, which they resemble in colour. LIP three-lobed; the two lateral lobes obovate, rounded, entire, broader than the sepals, whitish, destitute of spots; the central lobe unguiculate, nearly the same size as the lateral ones, emarginate or two-lobed, its anterior edges deeply indented, yellow in some varieties, in others of the same hue as the sepals, and with a few crimson spots; the lip, which has a longitudinal callosity on its disk, is united with the upper extremity of the column. COLUMN short, furnished at its union with the lip, with two short diverging horns. ANTHER dorsal, deeply imbedded in the column, of a reddish purple colour.

“WHILE detained at Isabal by the cholera, I quietly took a canoe, and amused myself by a cruise of a few leagues along the shores of the great lake, in search of our favourite Orchidaceæ. I returned home, drenched to the skin, but happy, nevertheless, in the highest degree, for I had discovered a most beautiful plant, and one which I am perfectly certain is new to you all. It is called here ‘Quartorones,’ in allusion to the four colours which may be seen in its blossoms; and a more beautiful spectacle than they presented, I never beheld. It hung suspended, as it were, over the margin of the lake, and sent forth perfumes that reminded me of the violet, and reached me at a great distance. For twenty minutes I stood gazing at it, before I could prevail upon myself to disturb it; but I found it in such abundance, and in such splendid flower withal, that I at length nearly filled my canoe before I could stay my hand, fancying each specimen finer than the one before it. Oh, that it were with you safe!”

Such is Mr. SKINNER'S account of his discovery of this extraordinary plant. The specimens, for which he expresses so much solicitude, had a most prosperous voyage, and reached us in safety about the end of June, 1837. They did not long remain inactive, and early in 1838 the two flower-stems made their appearance from which our figure was prepared. The *four* colours from which, according to Mr. SKINNER, it derives its vernacular name, are not very prominent in cultivation; indeed, unless we distinguish the yellowish white of one portion of the lip from the purer yellow of the other, we do not see how they are to be made out. It is, however, probable that there are many varieties of this species, some of which may have their colours more distinctly marked than others. In cultivation it requires no peculiar treatment, but is perfectly satisfied with such as the most robust of its fellows receive.

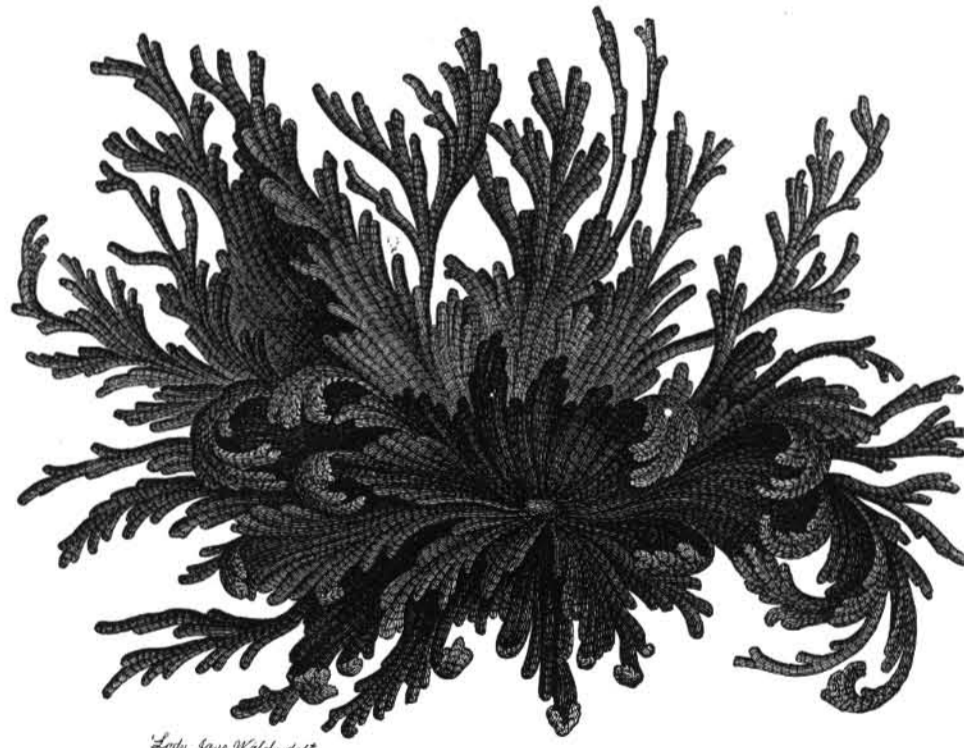
\* Supra. Tab. X.

Those who are conversant with the habits of the Epiphytic Orchidaceæ of the West, must have observed that a *terminal* inflorescence is usually characteristic of the tribe called *Epidendreae*, and that a *radical* or *lateral* inflorescence is almost invariably confined to the *Vandeeæ* and *Malaxideæ*; at all events, until the appearance of our present subject, no case had come to our knowledge of an *Epidendreous* plant with a radical scape; when, therefore, flower-stems were seen to issue, right and left, from the base of its recent shoots, we had not the most remote idea of its ever belonging to *that* section. In due time the flowers expanded, and our astonishment may be imagined, when we found that they differed in no respect from those of an ordinary *Epidendrum*!! Still, the habit of flowering from the base appeared so very peculiar, that we felt strongly disposed to constitute it a new genus on that ground alone; and were only dissuaded from so doing by the prudent counsel of Professor LINDLEY, who remarked that, however striking such a distinction might for the present appear, it would be untenable in the event of any species being discovered which produced its flowers from the side.\* To reasoning so just as this, it was, of course, impossible not to assent, and our plant was accordingly retained in the genus *Epidendrum*.

The "Quartorones," then, although it cannot be regarded as the type of a new *genus*, will be looked upon by botanists as a most remarkable and interesting *species*; while the elegance of its appearance, the facility with which it is cultivated, and its agreeable perfume, cannot fail to render it a favourite with the general collector.

The merits, therefore, of the plant being undoubtedly high, we have ventured to name it after the Earl of Stamford and Warrington, whose seat, Enville Hall, is so justly celebrated for its beautiful gardens, and the magnificent specimens of hardy forest trees, which have so long "floated redundant" on its lawns.† Enville also possesses a rich collection of tropical Orchidaceæ. Would that it were possible to allude to these vegetable treasures without being painfully reminded of him by whose taste and ardour they were assembled—the late lamented Lord Grey of Groby,—whose too early fate those only who knew him well, know how to adequately mourn!

Below will be found, in its expanded state, the *Lycopodium* represented in the preceding Vignette. It also is from the elegant pencil of LADY JANE WALSH, whose labours in this instance appear to be singularly appropriate, as forming a pleasing accompaniment to the plant named after her noble Sire.



Lady Jane Walsh del.

———— "The other shape,  
If shape it might be called, that shape had none."—MILTON.

\* Dr. Lindley's views might almost be said to have been prophetic, for there has lately blossomed, in Messrs. Loddiges' collection, a new Brazilian *Epidendrum* (*E. cauliflorum*), with precisely the side-flowering habits he anticipated.

† A well-known and popular pine-apple was originated at Enville, from whence it has borrowed its name.

