

**A ROYAL BOTANIST.**—There is one King in Europe who is a good practical botanist, and who must look back upon the hours spent in the arrangement of his fine herbarium with far more pleasure than upon those wasted in a vain and retrograde course of politics. The monarch in question is His Majesty of Saxony, who, in his scientific career at least, has gained honor and respect. Many are the stories told by his subjects of their ruler's adventures when following his favorite and harmless hobby; how, more than once, astray from his yawning courtiers, he had wandered in search of some vegetable rarity across the frontier of his legitimate dominions, and, on attempting to return, was locked up by his own guards as a spy or a smuggler, since he could produce no passport nor give any more probable account of himself than the preposterous assertion that he was their King. Fifteen years ago he made a famous excursion to the stony and piratical little Republic of Montenegro. It was literally a voyage of botanical discovery, and the potentate sailed down the Adriatic in a steamer fitted out with all the appliances of scientific investigation. On its deck he might be seen busily engaged in laying out his plants, ably and zealously assisted by his equerries and aides-de-camp, and guided by the advice of eminent botanists, who accompanied him as members of his suite. Such a kingly progress had surely never been seen before, unless ALEXANDER the Great may have relieved the monotony of conquering by making occasional natural history excursions with his quondam tutor, ARISTOTLE. The Montenegrins, on ordinary occasions very troublesome and by no means trustworthy people—folks who still keep many of the worst habits of the old Scottish Highlanders—were mystified into tranquility by the peculiar proceedings of their royal visitor and his noble attendants. Resolved, however, to render due honor to so distinguished and unusual a guest, they furnished a guard of State to accompany him in all his peregrinations; and, whenever his botanical Majesty stooped to gather a new or rare specimen, the soldiers halted and, with much ceremony, presented arms.—*Westminster Review*.

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