

MISCELLANEOUS.

(p. 133)

(8) ANDERS SPARRMAN to PEHR WILHELM WARGENTIN⁷⁸, Secretary of the Academy of Science.

A little note, not dated, with seeds for LINNAEUS and others (i.e. BERGIUS, MONTIN), collected in the Southern Hemisphere during his voyage with the British ships, viz. 14 sacks of seeds from New Zealand, New Rotterdam⁷⁹, etc. The note contains some remarks about soil, etc.

(9) A fragment of a letter by LINNAEUS *filius*, viz. an introduction to a paper about a plant found by SPARRMAN (*Erica Sparmannia*⁸⁰, publ. Sv. Vetenskaps-Akademiens Handlingar 1778).

The younger LINNAEUS talks about botanical investigations in the Cape Colony by THUNBERG, SPARRMAN and others. About SPARRMAN he writes: "Doctor Sparrman, after having visited the South Pole with botanical eyes, as far as ice and cold permitted sailing, came back to the Cape, and in order not to pass his time at such place without use to Science, at his own expense made an extensive excursion of about 200 miles⁸¹ from the Cape into the interior. During this journey he found, among many other unknown plants, at Krumme Rivier (about 150 miles from the Cape) this plant of a genus of which the Cape had before offered 30 species . . ." [no more].

(10) Enclosure with one of the SPARRMAN letters: 2 pencil-drawings of a Crab. At the back of these sketches some notes in Swedish about a

⁷⁸Re "New Rotterdam", in Voyage, Vol. 1, p. 95, SPARRMAN writes: ". . . went on to Namocka or New Rotterdam, one of the Friendly Isles above mentioned." This island was originally named "Rotterdam" by the Dutch navigator ABEL TASMAN ca 1644, but it is now called Nomuka or Namuka. It belongs to the Tonga Archipelago or Friendly Islands (the latter name being still used as an alternative for Tonga). SPARRMAN apparently has added the prefix "New" in analogy with New Zealand.

⁸⁰*Erica sparrmani*, L. f.; see also Introduction.

⁸¹The mileage given by the younger LINNAEUS (distances of 200 and 150 miles) needs some explanation. It was pointed out by Mr. FORBES that the distance from the Cape to the Great Fish River near Cookhouse by the route followed by SPARRMAN would be in the vicinity of 650 English miles, further that S. must have encountered the Kromme River first in Long. 24°5' at Kompanies Drift some 400 miles by road from the Cape, and must have left it near Humansdorp about 450 miles from the Cape. But what mile was LINNAEUS *filius* using? It cannot possibly be the Swedish or Scandinavian mile, as this equals over 6 English miles. Mr. FORBES who went into the subject extensively, informs us that the Swedish word for a mile could also be taken to mean a *league*. However, there were several leagues then in use, inter alia the French league and the sea league, the latter equalling 3.45 English miles. The English league, which was less common in those days, equals about 3 miles. If we divide the distances in English mileage by 3, they agree tolerably with those given by LINNAEUS *fil.*, which makes it evident that the mile he used must be taken to mean a league. The *Erica* referred to by LINNAEUS *fil.* must have been found near Humansdorp.