CASSINIA

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Since the biography of John Cassin was published in the first issue of this journal several additional items of interest regarding the man have come to our knowledge. Dr. Coues' eloquent tribute to Cassin which was published in "The Condor" shortly after our sketch appeared, was republished in Cassinia for 1902 and we now present some additional matter which has accumulated in the meantime.

In looking over the roll of students of the Friends' Boarding School at Westtown, Chester County, Pennsylvania, we found that Cassin had received his early education there, a fact that was referred to in the biography of John K. Townsend, in Cassinia for 1903. It is now our good fortune to have before us a copy of Dr. Darlington's classic "Florula Cestrica," which belonged to Cassin and was used by him while a student at Westtown school. It is inscribed on the fly-leaf: "John Cassin's Florula Cestrica, Westtown School, 3rd. Mo. 12th., 1830." Further examination shows on the blank leaves at the end of the volume a list in Cassin's handwriting entitled "Appendix No. 2. Plants found by J. Cassin, not described in this book, 1830," with a further reference "See Eaton's Manual for further information." There is also a note at the bottom of the last printed page as follows: "J. Cassin examined during the season of 1830, 385 of the plants described in this Book."

Laid in the back of the copy there are two admirable pencil drawings of the flowers of the Tobacco and American Colombo both signed J. Cassin.

These memoranda are of particular interest as they show that at the age of seventeen he had attained a knowledge of Botany that we had no intimation of, while they further demonstrate that he possessed an interest in natural history at a much earlier period in life than one would infer from a study of his ornithological publications alone.

A far more interesting contribution to Cassin's biography, in-as-much as it corrects an error in our sketch of his life and throws light upon his ancestry has been generously contributed by my friend Frederic H. Shelton of Philadelphia and is presented herewith.—WITMER STONE.