

lander, should he hear that the bag-pipes were derived from a lightly-clad tribe on the foot hills of the Himalayas. If, however, the Swiss mountaineer must be vexed by the thought that even the Pied-delon is no longer his own especial flower, he may find consolation in the thought that its extermination is likely to be delayed for some time, at least, if the new home for the Alpine *Leontopodium* is at six thousand feet on the slopes of the "Tacoma Range." This locality is sufficiently vague. Indeed, there is no "Tacoma Range" known to geographers. No doubt, however, the place meant is Mount Rainier or Tacoma, one of the most prominent peaks of the Cascade Range, which runs through British Columbia, Washington Territory, and Oregon, at a distance of forty or fifty miles from the sea, until, in California, it is lost in the Sierra Nevada and the various spurs from that well-known group of mountains. Mount Rainier is the most elevated point in the Cascades, at least within the United States. Seen from the Nisqually Plains and the neighbouring shores of Puget Sound, its summit, covered with perpetual snow, is one of the most marked features in the wild landscape of the country in its vicinity. But, owing to the distance from any settlements, the dense forests which must be penetrated before it can be reached, the difficulty of obtaining supplies and people to carry them, the few Mountaineers in that region who would care to spend time and money for the sake of gratifying their curiosity or their vanity, and the immense glaciers which bar the way, its slopes, like those of Mount Hood, Mount Baker, and the numerous other peaks of the range, have been seldom attempted, and still more seldom explored. Lieutenant VON KANTZ made the journey half way up some twenty-two years ago, and was compelled to return, for the reason mentioned. But in the summer of 1870, Messrs. STEPHENS and VAN TRUMP reached the summit, and the Director of the Coast Survey completed our knowledge of this interesting mountain by his more scientific observations. Since that date there have evidently been other tourists at work, for the discovery of Edelweiss and other Alpine plants, such as the "mannertreu," on its flanks, or on some of the heights in its vicinity, are events which must be credited to the past Summer.

That the discovery in question has actually been made we have no reason to doubt, though for the present the announcement is not fortified with the

name of the collector who brought the precious flower from "the Tacoma Range," nor—what is quite as important—by the name of the botanist on whose authority the identification has been made. More than once before this the heather and other European species have been affirmed to grow on the Cascades. But when the specimens were submitted to scientific examination they were invariably found to be something very different. At the same time, though the plants common to the Old World and the New are not numerous, the list is gradually increasing, many which were at one time regarded as distinct having been settled to be only "geographical forms" or local varieties of each other. Until the European heather was discovered in Nova Scotia, this familiar plant was regarded as quite peculiar to the old Continent. But since that date it has been detected in several places in the Eastern States and in Canada. Alpine plants are so peculiar that the chances are all in favour of these denizens of the mountain summits of widely-separated regions being identical, or, if not, very closely allied. The Alps and the Pyrenees have many species in common, and a large proportion of these extend into Scandinavia and across the Arctic circle, from within the mystic bounds of which they probably came during the glacial period, being driven south by the progress of the ice, and then, after warmer times returned, left stranded on the mountain tops. One fourth of the Alpine species are found on the Altai range of Siberia, and many of the genera, and some of the species also, are common to the Alps and the Himalayas. It is, therefore, quite within reason that the Edelweiss should have found its way across Behring Strait, and down the Cascade range into Washington Territory. The tendency of modern research is to throw doubt on the existence of many of those hermit-like plants which are known as "discovered species." *Origanum Tournefortii* is still only known as the denizen of a single rock in the small Island of Amorgos. *Disa grandiflora* is confined to Table Mountain, and *Oxytropis campestris* is as yet, in Great Britain at least, limited to one spot in the Clova Mountains. But every year or two the range of species at one time regarded as equally "monomic" is extending, and, as the opinions of Naturalists regarding the distinctions between forms approximate more and more to the Darwinian standard, the number of "peculiar" forms is getting more and more cir-

cumscribed. Meantime, the reported discovery of the Edelweiss so far from its European home is extremely interesting from every point of view. The higher elevations of the Cascades and the Rocky Mountains—which geographically are of less interest than the more western range—are still, and must necessarily long remain, *terra incognita* to the Naturalist. If, however, the present discoveries are to be accepted as indisputable, the Botanists of the Geological survey of the Territories will not fail to work a mine so promising; though, before adopting the new "fact" into their repertory, our Biologists will be inclined to wait until the opinion of Professor ASA GRAY, or some other authority on the American flora has been pronounced.

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