

Probably of a spreading habit in its native country, it emigrates, through one of the innumerable channels constantly open, to a foreign clime, where it becomes established, and where, in consequence of a change of conditions, some slight but permanent alteration is effected in its characters. The plant thrives, and in the lapse of years becomes a widely distributed weed. Another emigration takes place thence to a country where climatal and other conditions are different from those of either its native country or last adopted home. A more marked variety results. In the course of long time this variety appears on another continent, to be subjected to farther changes, which so destroy the identity of the plant that a botanist only acquainted with the species in its native clime, on seeing its wandering individuals here, hails the discovery of an allied plant requiring a place in specific nomenclature. It is, however, a suggestive enquiry whether if this new species or the variety were to find a footing in the country whence its progenitors came, it would retain its identity as a species or variety. The whole subject merits some investigation as to how far, in any respect, climatic or other differences produce permanent change. I cannot, however, help here recalling some analogous cases. The inland maritime plants, growing on the shores of the Great Lakes and elsewhere, have been subjected to a great change in their conditions of growth without any corresponding alteration in the distinctive characters of the species. Similar instances are recorded in the insect fauna of Lake Superior, and our attention has lately been drawn to *Pieris rapæ*, an intruding butterfly from Europe, extensively naturalized in the Province of Quebec, which here even feeds on a plant different from that which constitutes its food on the other side of the Atlantic, and yet retains its specific features unchanged.

In enumerating, in the catalogue below, species which have both indigenous and introduced representatives in the country, I briefly indicate the provincial range and habits of each plant as far as known. Our knowledge of the habits and distribution of the grasses in Ontario and Quebec is, however, so limited that I enumerate, without any accompanying notes, such species as are probably referable to this catalogue. Indeed, with respect to both this and the other catalogues, I shall be glad to have the aid of botanical friends in rendering our knowledge of the habits and range of all of the spreading and naturalized plants more complete.