

that were the country to resume its preadamite condition they would probably soon disappear. Adventive plants form a numerous class, embracing most of those weeds which confine themselves to the vicinity of dwellings and barns, and to cultivated grounds. The mustards and the corncockle, familiar pests on many eastern farms, and the flax, carrot, parsnip, and artichoke, illustrate the group.

Those introduced species, which have freely spread themselves throughout the settled parts of the country, and which, though domesticated through the agency of man, are probably quite independent of him for existence, come under the category of naturalized plants. The buttercup, clover, Canada thistle and sheep sorrel, strikingly exemplify this extensive group.

The remaining groups require a more attentive consideration. All of the species referred to them are indigenous to this country; some to the settled, others to the remote districts. With many individual plants of some of the species it forms a question whether their introduced habit indicates a foreign origin or results from a tendency of the indigenous plant to abnormally spread. In certain instances the known limited distribution of the species, in its indigenous form, dispels any doubt. For example, around Lake Superior. Agassiz chronicles as native, or probably so, species whose habits, in the settled parts of the country, evince a decidedly exotic origin. Where, however, the range of both forms is extensive, indicating the limits of each is impracticable. It is indeed *possible* that not only have the rambles of the native species frequently placed them side by side with the domesticated plants, and probably quite undistinguishable from them, but that in some instances the species, though common to Europe and America, have no introduced representatives here; and that individuals of these species, which have the habits of exotics, are in reality indigenes which have wandered beyond their natural homes.

A question, replete with interest, arises in connection with these naturalized plants. Have changes of climate and of other conditions in the long lapse of years impressed new specific characters on the individuals of any species, or, if not, have they produced any permanent varieties? If even the latter were the case, it seems probable that not only might varieties be different on different continents, but the migration of these varieties might also lead to specific changes. Let the imagination trace the wanderings of one of these little plants under such circumstances.