

From Mr. Robinson's herbarium came the original specimens about which I have gathered the present collection, and he has watched its growth with no less interest than myself, and with as much pleasure as he could have done had it been his own. The

2/ herbarium now contains 32 genera, 146 species (~~two~~ species. *Wood-* / 3

*Asplenium*

*wardia radicans* and *Aspidium unitum*, being only represented within our limits by their varieties), and, as herein recognized, 16 varieties. One of the latter, *var. Floridanum*, of *Aspidium cristatum*, may probably be eventually transferred permanently to the list of species, and we may confidently expect, from the frequency of late discoveries, still further additions to our North American ferns.

In the recognition of varieties I have, perhaps, drawn the lines closer than some will be willing to approve, but I could not consistently with my own views do otherwise. For example: in the case of ferns having the margins of their fronds or pinnae normally serrate it does not seem well to make varieties out of specimens that merely have their serratures or incisions a little deeper than usual—unless there are other well marked differences of character, as in the variety *incisum* of *Asplenium Trichomanes*, where the pinnae are not only deeply incised, but elongated to such a degree as to change the whole appearance of the plant and, in some specimens at least, confuse it with small specimens of another species (*A. ebenum*)—as it is only natural for such serratures and incisions to vary in a greater or less degree. But in the case of ferns with their margins normally entire such serratures or incisions, if constant, may be considered as deviations from normal characters sufficiently distinct to justify our regarding them as good varieties: or where individual plants exhibit well marked and permanent differences of habit or structure, such differences are entitled to recognition. In accordance with these views I have thrown all questionable varieties into brackets in the notes under the specific headings—retaining them in that form simply as a matter of record—and given separately all forms that I am disposed to recognize as good varieties, or whose claims to that consideration I am not prepared at present to question.

The geographical notes to the genera are based on Mr. John H. Redfield's admirable paper on the "Geographical Distribution of the Ferns of North America," published in *Torrey Club Bulletin*, Vol. VI, No. 1, (Jan. 1875). In this paper Mr. Redfield has distributed our species into six geographical divisions, as follows:

- I. "COSMOPOLITAN": widely distributed over the globe, in both temperate and tropical regions.