

now hope will not be delayed many years longer), would be much too bulky and expensive for the main purpose which this Manual fulfils. For its purpose, the present geographical limitation is, on the whole, the best,—especially since the botany of the states south of our district has been so well provided for by my friend, Dr. Chapman's *Flora of the Southern States*, issued by the same publishers. The southern boundary here adopted coincides better than any other geographical line with the natural division between the cooler-temperate and the warm-temperate vegetation of the United States; very few characteristically Southern plants occurring north of it, and those only on the low coast of Virginia, in the Dismal Swamp, etc. Our Western limit, also, while it includes a considerable prairie vegetation, excludes nearly all the plants peculiar to the great Western woodless plains, which approach our borders in Iowa and Missouri. Our northern boundary, being that of the United States, varies through about five degrees of latitude, and nearly embraces Canada proper on the east and on the west, so that nearly all the plants of Canada East on this side of the St. Lawrence, as well as those of the deep peninsula of Canada West, will be found in this volume.

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“Distinction of Grade of Varieties. Vain is the attempt to draw an absolute line between varieties and species. Yet in systematic works the distinction has to be made absolute, and each particular form to be regarded as a species or a variety, according to the botanist's best judgment. Varieties, too, exhibit all degrees of distinctness. Such as are marked and definite enough to require names are distinguished here into two sorts, according to their grades: 1. Those which, I think, cannot be doubted to be varieties of the species they are referred to, have the name printed in small capitals. These varieties make part of the common paragraph. 2. Those so distinct and peculiar that they have been, or readily may be, taken for species, and are some of them not unlikely to establish the claim: of these the name is printed in the same [black letter] type as that of the species; and they are allowed the distinction of a separate paragraph, except where the variety itself is the only form in the country.”

The whole work is a model of accurate description, correct orthography and typographical excellence. W.

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