

culties of various kinds are easily evaded by either of these extreme views; but with the fact before him of specific diversity and its manifestly long continuance on the one hand, and the remarkable migrations of some species on the other, the true naturalist must be content to work out the problems presented to him with the data afforded by the actual observation of nature, following carefully the threads of guidance thus indicated, not rudely breaking them by too hasty generalisations.

But it is time to leave the scientific teachings of our little alpine friends, and to enquire if they can teach anything to the heart as well as to the head.

The mountains themselves, heaving their huge sides to the heavens, speak of forces in comparison with which all human power is nothing; and we can scarcely look upon them in their majesty, without a psalm of praise rising up within us to Him who made the sea, and from whose hands the dry land took its form. As we ascend them, and as our vision ranges more and more widely over the tops of wooded hills, along the courses of streams, over cultivated valleys, and to the shores of the blue sea itself, our mental vision widens too. We think that the great roots of these hills run beneath a whole continent, that their tops look down on the wide St. Lawrence plain, on the beautiful valleys of New England, and on the rice fields of the sunny south. We are reminded of the brotherhood of man which overleaps all artificial boundaries, and should cause us to pray that throughout their whole extent these hills may rise amidst a happy, a free, and a God-fearing people.

Our alpine plants have still higher lessons to teach. They are fitting emblems of that little flock, scattered everywhere, yet one in heart, and in all lands having their true citizenship in heaven. They tell us that it is the humble who are nearest God, and they ask why we should doubt the guardian care of the Father who cares for them. They witness too of the lowly and hidden ones who may inhabit the barren and lonely spots of earth, yet are special subjects of God's love as they should be of ours. We may thus read in the alpine plants truths that beget deeper faith in God, and closer brotherhood with his people.

The history of these plants has also a strange significance. It might have been written of them, "though the dry land be removed out of its place, and the mountains cast into the midst of