

yellow, and is prettier than ours. The columbine is like ours in form, but in color is delicate yellow.

The general look of these mountain dwellers is, however, quite unlike the ordinary plants of Ontario. Strange to say, they show far more resemblance to the flowers of the Alps or of Arctic Norway. For example, the birch which grows in bushy tufts on the Rocky Mountains and their foothills has small round serrated leaves, just like those of the Arctic birch creeping among the mosses at Hammerfest.

Why should such widely distant points show any similarity in their plant life? What connection is there between Norwegian fjelds, Alpine summits and the snowy peaks of British Columbia? Can plants swim oceans and overleap plains, or were they created where they stand, and made closely like one another because their conditions of life are similar?

Geology offers a theory accounting for these plant colonies so much alike, though occupying isolated peaks, scattered mountain chains and the dreary Arctic hillsides. They are blood relations.

Before the present geological age came an age of ice, when a gradual increase of polar cold drove an ever-widening circle of glaciers to encroach on the temperate lands of our hemisphere. The more delicate plants shrank from the icy breath of the conquering north, and withdrew to warmer parallels, while the hardy Arctic plants crept slowly south to take their place. An Arctic flora followed the Arctic climate into formerly temperate regions.

How this great encroachment of cold originated geologists have not quite settled, but there certainly was an age of ice, for the marks of glacial action are found over most of the north temperate zone.

At length the causes of the cold were removed, and the ice age slowly passed away. Warmth reasserted its power, and the glaciers melted before it. The plants of temperate climates slowly moved northward, reconquering their old territory, and driving before them the Arctic intruders. The latter