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THE DISTRIBUTION OF PLANTS IN CANADA
IN SOME OF ITS RELATIONS
TO PHYSICAL AND PAST GEOLOGICAL CONDITIONS.

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More than two years ago, in this journal, the writer endeavoured to indicate and illustrate some of the more obvious features in the distribution of Canadian plants. It was shown that in taking a general view of this distribution several distinct floras could be recognized, viz.:—a general Canadian flora composing species which range over the whole or greater part of the Province; a second flora whose species are confined to the districts around the northern shores of Lakes Superior and Huron; a third to the comparatively narrow district bordering Lakes Erie and St. Clair and the south-western parts of Lake Ontario; a fourth to the Gulf and Lower St. Lawrence shores; and a fifth which had an undoubted boreal aspect. Besides these, were a small inland maritime flora, and two other floras whose limits and characteristics could not then be accurately defined, but which appeared to be limited—the one to Upper Canada and the other chiefly to Lower Canada. A number of plants were also indicated which were apparently confined to the tract of country around the northern shores of Lakes Huron and Superior and to the more eastern parts of Lower Canada, whilst several species were named whose occurrence was quite local. These prefatory references will render subsequent remarks more intelligible.

In investigating the causes which have influenced the diffusion of species in Canada, we find that whilst some have in past time been and are still exerting their influences, others are perhaps correctly referred to far distant periods. And whilst the operation of some is confined to narrow limits, others extend their effects