

al regions are to be found even on the highest plateaux of the mountains. On the slope of the Himalaya, under the shade of the Deodora and the broad-leaved oak, peculiar to these Indian Alps, the rocks of granite and of mica schist are covered with vegetable forms almost similar to those which characterize Europe and Northern Asia. The species are not identical, but closely analogous in aspect and physiognomy, as, for instance, the juniper, the alpine birch, the gentian, the marsh parnassia, and the prickly species of *Ribes*.* The chain of the Himalaya is also wanting in the imposing phenomena of volcanoes, which in the Andes and in the Indian Archipelago often reveal to the inhabitants, under the most terrific forms, the existence of the forces pervading the interior of our planet.

Moreover, on the southern declivity of the Himalaya, where the ascending current deposits the exhalations rising from a vigorous Indian vegetation, the region of perpetual snow begins at an elevation of 11,000 or 12,000 feet above the level of the sea,† thus setting a limit to the development of organic

* *Ribes nubicola*, *R. glaciale*, *R. grossularia*. The species which compose the vegetation of the Himalaya are four pines, notwithstanding the assertion of the ancients regarding Eastern Asia (Strabo, lib. 11, p. 510, Cas.), twenty-five oaks, four birches, two chestnuts, seven maples, twelve willows, fourteen roses, three species of strawberry, seven species of Alpine roses (*rhododendra*), one of which attains a height of 20 feet, and many other northern genera. Large white apes, having black faces, inhabit the wild chestnut-tree of Kashmir, which grows to a height of 100 feet, in lat. 33° (see Carl von Hügel's *Kaschmir*, 1840, 2d pt. 249). Among the Coniferæ, we find the *Pinus deodwara*, or *deodara* (in Sanscrit, *déwa-daru*, the timber of the gods), which is nearly allied to *Pinus cedrus*. Near the limit of perpetual snow flourish the large and showy flowers of the *Gentiana venusta*, *G. Moorcroftiana*, *Swertia purpurescens*, *S. speciosa*, *Parnassia armata*, *P. nubicola*, *Pœonia Emodi*, *Tulipa stellata*; and, besides varieties of European genera peculiar to these Indian mountains, true European species, as *Leontodon taraxacum*, *Prunella vulgaris*, *Galium aparine*, and *Thlaspi arvense*. The heath mentioned by Saunders, in Turner's *Travels*, and which had been confounded with *Calluna vulgaris*, is an *Andromeda*, a fact of the greatest importance in the geography of Asiatic plants. If I have made use, in this work, of the unphilosophical expressions of *European genera*, *European species*, *growing wild in Asia*, &c., it has been in consequence of the old botanical language, which, instead of the idea of a large dissemination, or, rather, of the coexistence of organic productions, has dogmatically substituted the false hypothesis of a migration, which, from predilection for Europe, is further assumed to have been from west to east.

† On the southern declivity of the Himalaya, the limit of perpetual snow is 12,978 feet above the level of the sea; on the northern declivity, or, rather, on the peaks which rise above the Thibet, or Tartarian