

modern evolutionists that there is a possibility of these plants so changing their characters that in the lapse of ages they might appear to us to be distinct specific types. The fact, however, that the Arctic species have migrated around the whole Arctic circle, and have advanced southward and retreated to the north, again and again, without changing their constitutions or forms, augurs for them at least a remarkable fixity as well as continuity.

While the huge ribs of mother earth that project into mountain summits, and the grand and majestic movement of the creative processes by which they have been formed, speak to us of the majesty of Him to whom the sea belongs, and whose hand formed the dry land, the continuance of these little plants preaches the same lessons of humble faith in the Divine promises and laws, which our Lord drew from the lilies of the field.

It is suggestive, in connection with the antiquity and migrations of these plants, to consider the differences in this respect of some closely allied species of the same genera. Of the blueberries that grow on the White Mountains, one species, *Vaccinium uliginosum*, is found in Behring's Straits and very widely in Arctic and boreal America,¹ also in northern Europe. *V. cæspitosum* has a wide northern range in America, but is not European. *V. Pennsylvanicum* and *V. Canadense*, from their geographical distribution, do not seem to belong to the Arctic flora at all, but to be of more southern origin. The two bearberries (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* and *alpina*) occur together on the White Hills, and on the Scottish and Scandinavian mountains; but the former is a plant of much wider and more southern distribution in America than the latter. Two of the dwarf willows of the White Mountains (*Salix repens* and *S. herbacea*) are European as well as

¹ Macoun, Catalogue of Canadian plants.