

endemic species. This peculiarity, it is true, is almost as strikingly exemplified in the flora of the Azores, the nearest of which is about 900 miles distant from the mainland of Western Europe. In this flora of 478 species, only thirty-nine, or about one-twelfth, are endemic; and most of these, like the Bermudan endemic species, are so closely allied to continental ones that they may be regarded as derivatives of them. About half-a-dozen of them are more closely related to Madeiran species than European; and one only, the very rare *Campanula vidalii*, is so very distinct from all other known species as to suggest the possibility of its being the remains of a more ancient flora. One, *Solidago azorica*, proves to be identical with *Solidago sempervirens*, a native of the east coast of North America, and apparently indigenous in the Bermudas. In the following enumeration we have entered into the details of the distribution of this plant; and although it was cultivated in Europe in Linnæus's time, and may possibly have been introduced into the Azores, we are of opinion that the probabilities of its being indigenous are at least as great as those of *Eriocaulon septangulare*, *Spiranthes romanzoviana*, and one or two other, otherwise exclusively North American plants, being indigenous in Ireland. Moreover, there is a similar instance in the South Atlantic. Thus *Asplenium compressum*, which was formerly supposed to be endemic in St Helena, was one of the few plants collected by Dr Copeland in South Trinidad during a short excursion in the island in 1873.¹

The endemic element in the flora of the Bermudas, as far as it is at present known, is limited to eight species, namely, *Erigeron darrellianus*, *Statice lefroyi*, *Sisyrinchium bermudiana*, *Sabal blackburniana*? *Carex bermudiana*, *Adiantum bellum*, *Asplenium laffanianum* and *Nephrodium bermudianum*. In the body of the work, the affinities, &c., of each species are fully discussed, and it is shown that closely allied species inhabit either South-Eastern North America or the West Indies. It is still uncertain whether the palm (*Sabal*) is endemic or common to some of the West Indian Islands. The only indication of a possibly older flora is offered by the *Carex*, which is most nearly related to the endemic species of the Island of St Helena. Only one imperfect specimen of it has been seen, however, and that was collected by J. Dickinson about the year 1699. Thus it will be seen that we have similar characteristics in the flora of the volcanic Azores and the coralline Bermudas.

INDIGENOUS PLANTS PROMINENT IN THE PRESENT VEGETATION OF THE ISLANDS.

Already allusion has been made to the all-pervading cedar (*Juniperus*), and its prominent though by far less numerously represented associate, the palmetto (*Sabal*). Next to the cedar some of the introduced plants are certainly more conspicuous and more generally diffused than any of the other indigenous species, and only a small number of the latter are really abundant. From documentary and other evidence the following

¹ What is known of the vegetation of this islet follows the flora of St Helena in this work.