

of *Chusquea abietifolia*, imported from Jamaica, flowered at Kew the same season as the plants of this grass generally in the island itself.

The genera *Yucca*, *Dasyllirion*, and *Nolina* are polycarpic ; the second has apparently strictly dioecious flowers, while the last is polygamously dioecious, both being in this respect quite exceptional in the order Liliaceæ.

With regard to the number of species, particularly of the genus *Agave*, and their local distribution, our information is exceedingly meagre. From the large number of forms now cultivated in this country, it is evident that the genus is very diversified, presenting distinct groups of species, the majority of which, however, are only known from their foliage. But as mere numbers do not affect the main issues, this circumstance is of little consequence from a geographical stand-point. With regard to the distribution within our limits, we have no knowledge of any species of *Yucca*, *Nolina*, *Dasyllirion*, or *Beschorneria* south of Guatemala, and the records of these genera, as well as of *Furcræa* and *Agave*, south of Mexico, are extremely few. It seems improbable that the two last genera do not exist in Nicaragua and Costa Rica, yet we have no evidence of their existence in these countries. Possibly we may have overlooked allusions to them in books of travel, or failed to make a note of them in consequence of not appreciating their importance at the time. Seemann* enumerates *Furcræa tuberosa* from the slopes of the Volcan de Chiriqui, and *F. gigantea* from the Island of Cacagual, Darien. The former was collected by Mandon in open situations, at 2600 metres, near Sorata, Bolivia, and we have seen specimens of it from Venezuela and New Grenada ; but it is commonly cultivated for its fibre and readily colonizes, hence it is difficult to determine where it is really indigenous. Martius† mentions that it has been cultivated and widely spread ever since America was discovered, and that it is impossible to fix its origin ; while of *Agave americana* he says, “nullibi eam vidi efferatam.” *Furcræa cubensis*, he suggests, may also be an introduced plant in Brazil. Wagner‡ states that *Agave americana* is a characteristic plant of the oak and alder region of Chiriqui, from 4200 to 8000 feet ; but this he may have confused with the *Furcræa* mentioned by Seemann. Plants of this type in the West Indies are—*Agave americana*, general ; *A. sobolifera*, *A. spicata*, and *Furcræa cubensis*, common ; *F. gigantea*, Antigua and French Islands ; and *Yucca aloifolia* in Jamaica and Antigua§. Both *Agave americana* and *Furcræa gigantea* have established themselves in the Mauritius, and the latter also in Rodriguez and Madagascar. These, then, are practically all the southward and eastward extensions, though there may be one or two more species. In the Atlantic States of North America there are four species of *Yucca*, one of *Nolina* and *Agave virginica*, mostly inhabiting sandy districts near the sea.

* Botany of the Voyage of the ‘Herald,’ p. 216.

† Flora Brasiliensis, iii. 1, p. 188.

‡ Petermann’s Geographische Mittheilungen, 1863, p. 294.

§ Grisebach, ‘Flora of the British West-Indian Islands,’ and ‘Catalogus Plantarum Cubensium,’ and Egger’s ‘Flora of St. Croix and the Virgin Islands.’