

NOTES ON "THE CALIFORNIAN THISTLE."

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The genus *Carduus*, as established by Linnæus, consists of what are called "True Thistles," with a hairy pappus or calyx; "Plume Thistles," with a feathery pappus or calyx.

Bentham, in his "Hand-book of the British Flora," follows Linnæus; but some botanists class the "True thistles" under the genus '*Carduus*,' and the "Plume thistles" under the genus *Cnicus* or *Cirsium*.

The "Milk Thistle" (*Carduus Marianus*) represents the "true thistles" in Tasmania, and the *Carduus lanceolatus*, or "Spear Thistle" (*Cnicus lanceolatus*, of "The British Flora," by Hooker and Arnott), the Plume Thistles. The "Spear Thistle" of England is what is called in Tasmania "The Scotch Thistle;" but it is not by any means peculiar to Scotland. (The Scotch heraldic thistle is the *Onopordon acanthium*, which is a native of central Europe and of Asia, but certainly not a native of Scotland, according to Bentham.) The "Spear Thistle" (*Carduus* or *Cnicus lanceolatus*) has a biennial root-stock, which sends up for two years, (after which it dies), annual stems, winged and prickly, with broadish, pinnatifid, prickly-lobed leaves, and large, egg-shaped flower-heads, enveloped in involucre, spreading bracts, with stiff, largish prickles. The "Creeping Thistle" (*Carduus* or *Cnicus arvensis*) has a perennial and creeping root-stock, which sends up, perpetually, annual stems, with rather narrow, pinnatifid, very prickly-lobed leaves, and dicecious flower-heads (*i.e.*, the males on one plant and the females on another),—the male flower-heads nearly globular, and the female flower-heads egg-shaped, enveloped in involucre, appressed bracts, with small prickles.

Both the Spear Thistle and the Creeping Thistle are found abundantly in Europe and Asia. The Spear Thistle is, of course, the more easily destroyed of the two. The Creeping Thistle seems to be quite ineradicable.

The Creeping Thistle is mentioned by Professor Johnston as being called in the United States of America the "Canadian Thistle,"—probably because it travelled thither from Canada; and so, I suppose, the same thistle is called here the "Californian Thistle" because it has come to us from California. It is nevertheless the "Creeping Thistle" of Great Britain,—and it never quits a country into which it has been introduced.