

from the equator augments. The rhododendron of Lapland grows also at eight or nine hundred toises lower than the rhododendron of the Alps and the Pyrenees. We were surprised at not meeting with any species of *befaria* in the mountains of Mexico, between the rhododendrons of Santa Fé and Caracas, and those of Florida.

In the small grove which crowns the Silla, the *Befaria ledifolia* is only three or four feet high. The trunk is divided from its root into a great many slender and even verticillate branches. The leaves are oval, lanceolate, glaucous on their inferior part, and curled at the edges. The whole plant is covered with long and viscous hairs, and emits a very agreeable resinous smell. The bees visit its fine purple flowers, which are very abundant, as in all the alpine plants, and, when in full blossom, they are often nearly an inch wide.

The rhododendron of Switzerland, in those places where it grows, at the elevation of between eight hundred and a thousand toises, belongs to a climate, the mean temperature of which is $+2^{\circ}$ and -1° , like that of the plains of Lapland. In this zone the coldest months are -4° , and -10° : the hottest, 12° and 7° . Thermometrical observations, made at the same heights and in the same latitudes, render it probable that, at the Pejual of the Silla, one thousand toises above the Caribbean Sea, the mean temperature of the air is still 17° or 18° ; and that the thermometer keeps, in the coolest season, between 15° and 20° in the day, and in the night between 10° and 12° . At the hospital of St. Gothard, situated nearly on the highest limit of the rhododendron of the Alps, the maximum of heat, in the month of August at noon, in the shade, is usually 12° or 13° ; in the night, at the same season, the air is cooled by the radiation of the soil down to $+1^{\circ}$ or -1.5° . Under the same barometric pressure, consequently at the same height, but thirty degrees of latitude nearer the equator, the *befaria* of the Silla is often, at noon, in the sun, exposed to a heat of 23° or 24° . The greatest nocturnal refrigeration probably never exceeds 7° . We have carefully compared the climate, under the influence of which, at different latitudes, two groups of plants of the same family vegetate at equal heights above the level of the sea. The results would have been far different, had we com-