

resembles in its appearance the *k'in* 芹 ('celery,' *Apium graveolens*), and has a fragrant flavor."

Judging from the description, the vegetable *ts'o ts'ai* appears to have been a species of *Lactuca*, *Cichorium*, or *Sonchus*. These genera are closely allied, belonging to the family *Cichoraceae*, and are confounded by the Chinese under a large number of terms. A. DE CANDOLLE¹ supposed that lettuce (*Lactuca sativa*) was hardly known in China at an early date, as, according to Loureiro, Europeans had introduced it into Macao.² With reference to this passage, BRETSCHNEIDER³ thinks that de Candolle "may be right, although the *Pen ts'ao* says nothing about the introduction; the *šen ts'ai* 生菜 (the common name of lettuce at Peking) or *pai-kü* 白苣 seems not to be mentioned earlier than by writers of the T'ang (618-906)." Again, DE CANDOLLE seized on this passage, and embodied it in his "Origin of Cultivated Plants" (p. 96). The problem, however, is not so simple. Bretschneider must have read the *Pen ts'ao* at that time rather superficially, for some species of *Lactuca* is directly designated there as being of foreign origin. Again, twenty-five years later, he wrote a notice on the same subject,⁴ in which not a word is said about foreign introduction, and from which, on the contrary, it would appear that *Lactuca*, *Cichorium*, and *Sonchus*, have been indigenous to China from ancient times, as the bitter vegetable (*k'u ts'ai*) is already mentioned in the *Pen kin* and *Pie lu*. The terms *pai kü* 白苣 and *k'u kü* 苦苣 are supposed to represent *Cichorium endivia*; and *wo-kü* 蒿苣, *Lactuca sativa*. In explanation of the latter name, Li Ši-čen cites the *Mo k'o hui si* 墨客揮犀 by P'en Č'en 彭乘, who wrote in the first half of the eleventh century, as saying that *wo ts'ai* 蒿菜 ("wo vegetable") came from the country 高 Kwa, and hence received its name.⁵ The *Ts'in i lu* 清異錄, a work by T'ao Ku 陶穀 of the Sung period, says that "envoys from the country Kwa came to China, and at the request of the people distributed seeds of a vegetable; they were so generously rewarded that it was called *ts'ien kin ts'ai* 千金菜 ('vegetable of a thousand gold pieces'); now it is styled *wo-*

¹ Géographie botanique, p. 843.

² This certainly is a weak argument. The evidence, in fact, proves nothing. Europeans also introduce their own sugar and many other products of which China has a great plenty.

³ *Chinese Recorder*, 1871, p. 223.

⁴ Bot. Sin., pt. III, No. 257.

⁵ I do not know how STUART (p. 229) gets at the definition "in the time of the Han dynasty." The same text is also contained in the *Sü po wu č'i* (Ch. 7, p. 1 b), written by Li Ši 李石 about the middle of the twelfth century.