

flung in wild irregular profusion over every portion of its surface. The effect is heightened by the contrast of the coal-black colour of these vegetables, with the light ground-work of the rock to which they are attached. The spectator feels transported, as if by enchantment, into the forests of another world; he beholds trees of form and character now unknown upon the surface of the earth, presented to his senses almost in the beauty and vigour of their primeval life; their scaly stems and bending branches, with their delicate apparatus of foliage, are all spread forth before him, little impaired by the lapse of indefinite ages, and bearing faithful records of extinct systems of vegetation, which began and terminated in times of which these relics are the infallible historians. Such are the grand natural herbaria wherein these most ancient remains of the vegetable kingdom are preserved in a state of integrity little short of their living perfection, under conditions of our planet which exist no more.”*

7. CARBONIFEROUS, OR MOUNTAIN LIMESTONE.

—The strata comprised in this geological group, consist of—1st, Millstone-grit:—2, Bluish-grey limestone traversed by veins of calcareous spar, abounding in encrinital remains and other marine exuviae; in some localities it is rich in lead ore, and hence has been called metalliferous limestone:—3, Chert, sandstone, shale, and coal of inferior quality.

* Bridgewater Essay, p. 458.