

The first indication of the existence of reptilian remains in rocks as old as the coal was the discovery, in 1843, by Sir William Logan, of some footprints in the coal-measures of Nova Scotia. The first reptilian bones were discovered in 1852, in the celebrated coal-measures of South Joggins, on the Bay of Fundy. The measures here are two and three fourth miles in thickness; and along a middle belt of fourteen hundred feet they abound in the remains of ancient forests, the trunks and stumps of large trees still standing erect, with their roots still penetrating the ancient soil. Here, as has been shown by Messrs. Dawson and Lyell, root-bearing soils occur at *sixty-eight different levels*, and between them are deposits of shale and sandstone, which must have had an aqueous and probably a marine origin, thus showing, beyond all controversy, that the level of the locality underwent at least sixty-eight oscillations during about *one tenth* of the period of the coal-measures. Many of these fossil tree-trunks are hollow, and filled with sandstone containing vegetable remains. In one of these hollow trunks the hammer of the Acadian naturalists laid bare some bones, which proved to be the remains of the oldest reptile at that time known in America, and which was subsequently named *Dendroperon Acadianum*. Different individuals must have varied from six inches to three feet in length, and they were probably batrachians rather than true reptiles, though naturalists do not always make the distinction. These little animals seem to have made their home in the hollow of the tree, and to have been overtaken by the flood which ended the epoch and buried them among the other relics of their time. Another batrachian was discovered the same year in the coal of Pictou, in Nova Scotia, and in 1859 still another. The reader will find these all more minutely described in Dawson's "Air-breathers of the Coal Period."