

Bovey as it existed in the Tertiary period, we shall have to sketch it somewhat in the following manner:—The woods which covered the slopes which surrounded the beds of lignite, consisted mainly of a huge coniferous tree (*Sequoia Couttsiæ*), whose figure resembled in all probability its highly admired cousin, the *Sequoia* (*Wellingtonia*) *gigantea* of California. It had just the same graceful slender form in its vernal shoots, thickly studded with leaflets; and the similarity continued in the older shoots and branches, which were clothed with scales. But it presented a distinct character in its shorter leaves, which were even more closely appressed to the shoots, and in its smaller cones. The leafy trees of most frequent occurrence were the cinnamons (*Cinnamomum lanceolatum* and *C. Scheutchzeri*) and an evergreen oak (*Quercus Lyelii*) like those which now are seen in Mexico. The species of evergreen figs were rarer, as were also those of *Anona* and *Gardenia*. The trees of the ancient forest were evidently festooned with vines, beside which the prickly Rotang-palm (*Palmacites Dæmonorops*) twined its snake-like form. In the shade of the forest throve numerous ferns, one species of which, *Pecopteris lignitum*, seems to have formed trees of imposing grandeur; besides which there were masses of underwood belonging to various species of the genus *Nyssa*, which is at present confined to North America. On the surface of the lake, in which were formed the deposits of clay and sand that lie between the lignite beds, were expanded the leaves of those water-lilies, the ornate seeds of which are preserved for our examination.'

A description so vivid needs no comment, and of this we may be sure, that this fragment of a flora only represents a small part of that of a vast continent, to