

early morning, or lolling under the noonday shade of some wide-spreading and umbrageous *Lepidodendron*.

At the entrance of the bay was an exposed headland. From this the high beach stretched away for miles; and already the older coal deposits were exposed along the eroded cliffs. Here the waves pounded up beds of sandstone, shale, and coal. The sands were deposited along the beach which faced the open sea. The finer and lighter materials were floated off in search of a quieter nook. In the bay they found a retreat from wind and waves, and there laid themselves down in a mixture of comminuted coal and clay. In a later age, the deposit was a bed of cannel coal.

Why prolong the tale? The land continued to oscillate as long as the purification of the air was incomplete. Again and again, the forest resumed its work, and bed after bed was stored away beneath ocean sediments, to await the end. When the beneficent work had been accomplished, the tired forces, that had endured with trembling and vibrations, the enormous strain that had been accumulating under the prolonged contraction of the interior, yielded with a tremendous collapse which jarred the hemisphere. Huge folds of the massive crust uprose, and were mashed together till their crests pierced the clouds. This was the birth of the Appalachians. This event proclaimed the end of the long Palæozoic Æon. Only the stumps of those folds remain to-day. Though crumbling, they stand as monuments of the mighty throes through which the world was prepared for man and civilization.

XLIII. THE REPTILE MONARCHIES.

MESOZOIC EVENTS.

THE storm is cleared, and a new sky overhangs the scene. We seem to be in another world. We glance over the territory lately covered by luxuriant coal-vegetation, and Cycads, and Voltzias now hold possession. The Cycads are palmetto-like in form, fern-like in foliage, and pine-like in affinities; the