

There is something very striking in this succession of a new plant world without any material advance. It is like passing in the modern world from one district to another, in which we see the same forms of life, only represented by distinct though allied species. Thus, when the voyager crosses the Atlantic from Europe to America, he meets with pines, oaks, birches, poplars, and beeches of the same genera with those he had left behind; but the species are distinct. It is something like this that meets us in our ascent into the Carboniferous world of plants. Yet we know that this is a succession in time, that all our old Erian friends are dead and buried long ago, and that these are new forms lately introduced (Fig. 32).

Conveying ourselves, then, in imagination forward to the time when our greatest accumulations of coal were formed, and fancying that we are introduced to the American or European continent of that period, we find ourselves in a new and strange world. In the Devonian age, and even in the succeeding Lower Carboniferous, there was in the interior of America a wide inland sea, with forest belts clinging to its sides or clothing its islands. But in the coal period this inland sea had given



FIG. 32.—Foliage from the coal-formation. *a*, *Alethopteris lonchitica*, fern (Moose River). *b*, *Sphenophyllum Schlotheimii* (Pictou). *c*, *Lepidodendron binerve* (Sydney). *d*, *Asterophyllites foliosa* (?) (Sydney). *e*, *Cordaites* (Joggins). *f*, *Neuropteris rarinervis*, fern (Sydney). *g*, *Odontopteris subcuneata*, fern (Sydney).