

vascular Cryptogamic plants. Among existing vegetables almost two thirds are Dicotyledonous.

The Remains of Monocotyledonous Plants occur, though sparingly, in each Period of Geological formations.

The number of fossil plants as yet described is about five hundred; nearly three hundred of these are from strata of the Transition series; and almost entirely from the Coal formation. About one hundred are from strata of the Secondary series, and more than a hundred from formations of the Tertiary series. Many additional species have been collected from each of these series, but are not yet named.

As the known species of living vegetables are more than fifty thousand, and the study of fossil botany is as yet but in its infancy, it is probable that a large amount of fossil species lies hid in the bowels of the earth, which the discoveries of each passing year will be continually bringing to light.

The plants of the First period are in a great measure composed of Ferns, and gigantic Equisetaceæ; and of families, of intermediate character between existing forms of Lycopodiaceæ and Coniferæ, e. g. Lepidodendriæ, Sigillariæ, and Stigmariæ; with a few Coniferæ.

Of plants of the Second period, about one third formations present only that peculiar tribe of this class, which is made up of Cycadeæ and Coniferæ, viz. Gymnospermous Phanerogamiæ.