

slab of shale, covered with imprints, is split open and exposed to view. The natural relations of these plants are not ascertained, but they are conjectured to belong to the *Marsiliaceæ*, or pepper-worts.

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The reader will perceive that the plants hitherto described have, with but few exceptions, been found in the coal formations, many exclusively, and all abundantly in those deposits. The remains of the four most numerous families—the Ferns, Calamites, Sigillariæ, and Lepidodendra, with masses of coniferous organization, have, in fact, contributed, in a great measure, to form those enormous accumulations of mineral fuel, which now supply materials for the luxuries and necessities of mankind.

Our review of the fossil vegetables will henceforth assume more of a botanical arrangement, and we shall briefly notice the most important species that occur in the other and more recent formations.

CYCADEÆ (*Bd.* I. p. 490. pl. 57, 58, 59. *Wond.* p. 364.).—The plants and trees called Coniferæ, or cone-bearing, from the form of their fruit, possess remarkable botanical peculiarities: but the characters that require particular notice in the investigation of their fossil remains, belong to the fruit, and the