

A striking contrast will be presented in the geological position of the mineralized dicotyledons, of existing genera and species. These abound in the tertiary strata, and generally in an inverse ratio to the antiquity of the deposit; while their remains, if we exclude the Coniferæ and Sigillariæ, are rare in the older rocks. Nor have there been discovered in the tertiary, immense accumulations of vascular cryptogamia, as in the carboniferous formations; and we may seek in vain among the secondary, for such beds of fossil dicotyledonous plants as exist in many of the newer tertiary strata.

One of the most remarkable examples of foliage of this class in the older secondary deposits, is a leaf found in the New Red sandstone, near Liverpool. It much resembles the leaf of a thick ribbed cabbage.*

We have already mentioned, that in strata of this epoch, several stems, with leaves, flowers, and fruit of a peculiar genus of Coniferæ, have been found near Strasburgh.

It would be impossible, within the limits assigned to this work, to offer even a general view of the fossil remains of this grand class of vegetables, and it must suffice to point out a few interesting localities and examples. When stems of dicotyledons

* This fossil is named *Dictyophyllum crassinervium* by Dr. Lindley, *Foss. Flor. pl.* 201.; and is figured in Mr. Murchison's splendid work, *Sil. Syst.* p. 43.