

two species of *Poa*, a common tribe of grasses, from Coalbrook Dale, and these are almost the only known examples of any of the *gramineæ* in the ancient fossil Flora.

From this survey of the mineralized remains of the vegetable kingdom, it will be perceived that, from the most ancient fossiliferous deposits, to those which are contemporaneous with man—from the ancient coal-measures to the modern peat-morasses—vegetable matter occurs in all the various states of carbonization; petrification, or transmutation into stone, from the infiltration of earthy or metallic substances, being an accidental change, dependent on the character of the deposit in which the remains were imbedded, modified by the nature of the original plants.

Although the complete system of organic life in the vegetable kingdom of the ancient periods of our globe, is not revealed by the fossil remains hitherto discovered, for numerous families may have existed of which no traces have been detected, and if of delicate organization none may be preserved, yet some interesting generalizations are presented for our consideration. And although conclusions of this kind must be regarded in the nature of shifting hypotheses, which may require to be modified with the progress of discovery, yet the characters of the Floras of certain formations, differ in so striking a manner from those of other groups of strata, that it is not probable their essential features will be mate-