

which is now only met with in tropical climates (*Wond.* p. 569.).

The limestones of the Carboniferous and Silurian systems, also abound in *anthozoan* corals, but many peculiar kinds appear, particularly of *Cyathophylla*, *Lithododendra*, *Syringopora*, *Catenipora*, &c.; and are as characteristic of these deposits, as the *Sigillaria* and *Stigmaria* are of the Coal measures.

The extensive beds of coralline marbles which are found in the Silurian strata wherever they occur, for similar limestones in North America are characterised by the same species of corals as those of England, prove that a more equal distribution of temperature must have prevailed throughout the sea, at that geological epoch, than at the present time, when the geographical distribution of the coral zoophytes is strictly limited by temperature. The reef-forming genera are now confined to waters where the temperature is not below 70°; their most prolific development being 76°. The apparent exception, the occurrence of coral-reefs at the Bermudas, is found to depend upon proximity to the Gulf Stream (*Wond.* p. 55.), which brings down the thermal waters of the tropics, and increases the local temperature of the sea in those localities. The general prevalence of a higher temperature in the earlier ages of our planet, which the reader will remember was indicated by the fossil Flora of the Carboniferous system, thus receives support from