

Fig. 495.

Fig. 496.

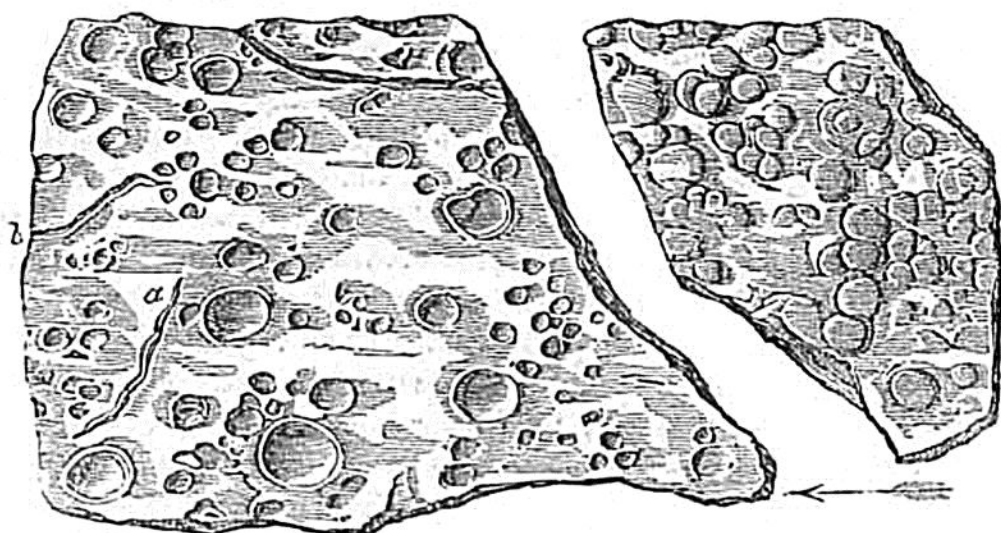


Fig. 495. Carboniferous rain-prints with worm-tracks (*a*, *b*) on green shale, from Capo Breton, Nova Scotia. *Natural size.*

Fig. 496. Casts of rain-prints on a portion of the same slab, fig. 495, seen on the under side of an incumbent layer of arenaceous shale. *Natural size.*
The arrow represents the supposed direction of the shower.

observable some small ridges as at *a*, which stand out in relief, and afford evidence of cracks formed by the shrinkage of subjacent clay, on

Fig. 497.

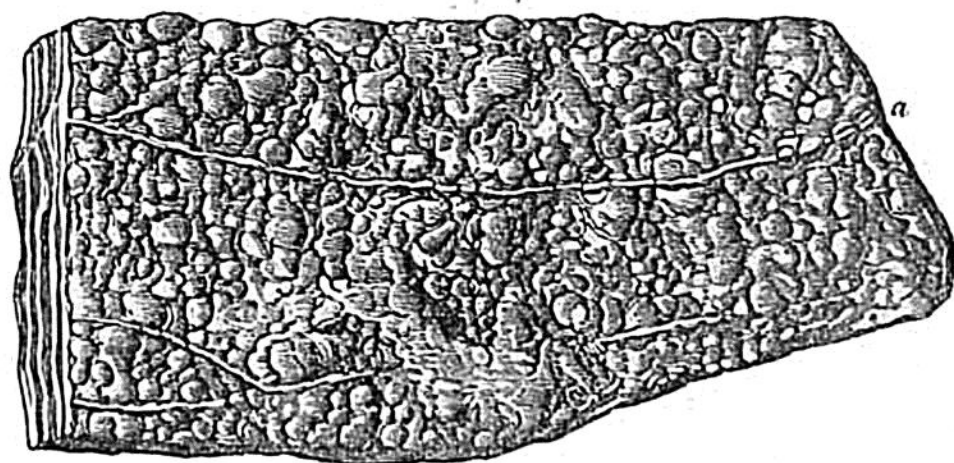


Fig. 497. Casts of carboniferous rain-prints and shrinkage-cracks (*a*) on the under side of a layer of sandstone, Capo Breton, Nova Scotia. *Natural size.*

which rain had fallen. Many of the associated sandstones are ripple-marked.

The great humidity of the climate of the coal period had been previously inferred from the nature of its vegetation and the continuity of its forests for hundreds of miles; but it is satisfactory to have at length obtained such positive proofs of showers of rain, the drops of which resembled in their average size those which now fall from the clouds. From such data we may presume that the atmosphere of the carboniferous period corresponded in density with that now investing the globe, and that different currents of air varied then as now in tempera-