

very widely in each hemisphere ; but amber, the fossilized resin of an extinct species of pine, seems very much restricted, like some of our existing pines, to a European centre ; and though there were specimens in the Exhibition furnished from various European localities,—among the rest, from the Norfolk coast,—all the finer and larger specimens came, we found, from Northern Germany, and in especial from the southern coast of the Baltic. In the glass case of one exhibitor, beautiful pieces of amber, dug out of the ground, lay side by side with fragments of the fossil pine (*pinus succinifer*) which had produced it : in another there were large masses which had been cast up by the sea, of a quality so fine, that similar masses have been sold at the rate of a hundred dollars per pound weight ; in yet another case there were specimens of the various implements and ornaments into which amber is formed, and which rendered it of old, and in some degree still, an important article of commerce ; and in yet another and vastly more interesting case still, had one but the time and opportunity necessary to observation, there was a set of specimens of amber selected for the sake of the organisms, vegetable and animal, which they contained, and which had taken—so said the catalogue—twenty-five years to collect. It is a curious circumstance, that naturalists have now discovered in this substance fossilized fragments of forty-eight different species of shrubs and trees, and no fewer than eight hundred different species of insects. We looked with no little respect on the various specimens of amber furnished by the Exhibition, as of great interest to the geologist, from the circumstance that it has formed the best of all matrices for the preservation of the minuter organisms of the later tertiary periods ; and of great interest to the historian, from the circumstance that it was the means of first awakening the commercial spirit in northern Europe, and of inducing the equalizing tides of civilization to set in from the