

forests : long withdrawing lakes, fringed with dense thickets of the green Calamite, tall and straight as the masts of pinnacles, and inhabited by enormous fishes, that glittered through the transparent depths in their enamelled armour of proof ; or glades of thickest verdure, where the tree-fern mingled its branch-like fronds with the hirsute arms of the gigantic club-moss, and where, amid strange forms of shrub and tree no longer known on earth, the stately Araucarian reared its proud head two hundred feet over the soil ; or yet again, there rose a scene of coral bowers and encrinal thickets, that glimmered amid the deep green of the ancient ocean, and in which, as in the groves sung by Ovid, the plants were sentient, and the shrinking flowers bled when injured. And, last of all, on the further limits of organic life a thick fog came down upon the sea, and my excursions into the remote past terminated, like the voyage of an old fabulous navigator, in thick darkness. Each of the series of visions, whether of the comparatively recent or the remote past, in which I at that time indulged, had employed the same faculties and gratified the same feelings ; and though, in surveying the stuff out of which they had been sublimed, I could easily say where the historic ended and the geologic began, no corresponding line indicated in the visions themselves where the poetry ended and the prose began. The visions, whether historic or geologic, ‘ were of imagination all compact.’ They all involved the same processes of *mind*—though, of course, in this instance, *mind* of a humbler order and ruder texture—as those exhibited in the sweet and fragrant verse of the poet himself,—as those exercised, let me say, in his vision on ‘ Mary’s Mount,’ when, with quiet graves above, and surrounded by quiet fields, he saw the contending hosts of a former day thronging the lower ground, and,

‘ With hilt to hilt, and hand to hand,
The children of our mother land
To battle came ;’