

plants, chiefly dicotyledonous,—of fishes specifically different from those which now exist, but of the existing genera,—of a fox, which only the comparative anatomist can distinguish from the recent species of this country,—and of reptiles generically akin to those of the United States. It is a curious fact that, both in its animal and vegetable productions, that part of the New World which borders upon the Atlantic in the temperate zone, from Carolina to the mouth of the St. Lawrence, still presents very much the appearance which was presented by the flora and fauna of Europe during the later Tertiary periods. It has been often remarked, in reference to human manners and the progress of civilisation, that all ages of the world may be regarded as contemporary. Man is still, in many of the South Sea Islands, what he was in our own country previous to the times of the Roman invasion; and there are provinces in Spain and Portugal in which neither the people nor the clergy have got beyond the semi-barbarism of the Middle Ages. Curiously enough, in geologic history also, though in a narrower and more restricted sense, all ages are contemporary. The Galapagos have their age of reptiles, New Zealand its age of birds, and New Holland its age of marsupial quadrupeds. These countries bear now, in not a few particulars, the character of the Oolitic period in our own country. Again, on the eastern coasts of North America we are presented with a vegetation greatly resembling that of some of the later Tertiary periods; and of several of its animals the type is still more ancient. America, though emphatically the *New* World in relation to its discovery by civilized man, is, at least in these regions, an *old* world in relation to geological type; and it is the so-called *Old* World that is in reality the *new* one. ‘If we compare,’ says Professor Agassiz, in his late admirable work, *Lake Superior*,—‘if we compare a list of the fossil trees and shrubs from the Tertiary beds of Eningen with a catalogue