of the trees and shrubs of Europe and North America, it will be seen that the differences scarcely go beyond those shown by the different floras of these continents under the same latitudes. But what is quite extraordinary and unexpected is the fact, that the European fossil plants of that locality resemble more closely the trees and shrubs which grow at present in the eastern parts of North America, than those of any other part of the world; thus allowing us to express correctly the difference between the opposite coasts of these continents, by saying that the present eastern American flora, and, I may add, the fauna also, have a more ancient character than those of Europe. The plants, especially the trees and shrubs growing in our days in the United States, are, as it were, old-fashioned; and the characteristic genera Lagoings, Chelydra, and the large Salamanders, with permanent gills, that remind us of the fossils of Œningen, are at least equally so: *they bear the marks of former ages.*' This interesting fact,—vouched for by assuredly no mean authority,—may enable us to conceive of the general aspect of our country, so far at least as its appearance depended on its vegetation, towards the close of the Miocene period. Old Scotland exhibited features in that age greatly resembling those presented to the Puritan Fathers by the forest-covered shores of New England little more than two centuries ago. But no family of man dwelt in its solitary woods; and, as shown by its widely spread deposits of trap-tuff, and its vast beds of overlying basalt, broken by faults and shifts, its ancient volcanoes had not yet died out, and it must have had its frequent earthquake-agues and shaking-fits.

There is, however, another witness besides the leaf-beds of the island of Mull, which we may properly call into court to give evidence regarding the Tertiary period in Scotland. It is known that from a very early time masses of amber have been occasionally furnished by the north-eastern shores