

from every other system. And such—striking off the peculiarities of the trap, which has no necessary connexion with the Carboniferous system, but is common, in some one part of the world or another, to all the systems—are some of the features, natural and superinduced, of this most important, in an economic point of view, of all the geologic formations. They are, as I have said, of no very prominent character. The poet Delta describes, in a fine stanza, the scenery around and to the east of Edinburgh. But though the area which the landscape includes contains one of our most considerable coal-basins,—a basin many square miles in extent,—it does not furnish him with a single descriptive reference. Almost all those bolder and more characteristic features of the scene which his pencil exquisitely touches and relieves, it owes to the igneous rocks :

‘ Traced in a map the landscape lies,
 In cultured beauty stretching wide ;
 There Pentland’s green acclivities ;
 There ocean with its azure tide ;
 There Arthur Seat, and, gleaming through
 Thy southern wing, Dunedin blue ;
 While in the orient, Lammer’s daughters,
 A distant giant range, are seen ;
 North Berwick Law with cone of green,
 And Bass amid the waters.’

The ancient scenery of the Coal Measures would be greatly more difficult to trace. As we recede among the extinct creations farther and farther from the present time, the forms become more strange, and less reduceable to those compartments to which we assign known classes and existing types. Our more solid principles of classification desert us, and we are content to substitute instead, remote analogies and distant resemblances. We say of one family of plants that they somewhat resemble club-mosses, shot up in bulk and height into forest trees ; and of another family, that they would be not very unlike the horsetails of our morasses, did horsetails