

They were exclusively vegetable. Often have I detected in the rude block placed before me, to be fashioned into some moulded transom or carved mullion, fragments of a sculpture which I might in vain attempt to rival,—the forked stems of *Lepidodendra*, fretted into scales that, save for their greater delicacy and beauty, might have reminded the antiquary of the sculptured corslet of scale-armour on the effigies of some ancient knight; the straight-stemmed *Calamite*, fluted from joint to joint, like the shaft of some miniature column of the Grecian Doric; the *Sigillaria*, also a fluted column, but of a more meretricious school than that of Greece, for it was richly carved between the flutings; the *Stigmaria*, fretted over, with its eyelet-holes curiously connected by delicately-waved lines; and occasionally the elaborately ornate *Ulodendron*, with its rows of circular scars, that seemed to have been subjected to the lathe of an ornamental turner, and its general surface fretted over with what seemed to be nicely sculptured leaves, such as we sometimes see on a Corinthian torus. It was not easy, more than a quarter of a century ago, when Sir Roderick Murchison was still an officer of dragoons, Sir Charles Lyell prosecuting the study of English law, and Dr. Buckland still engaged with his theory of the Flood, which he had given to the world only the previous year,—it was not easy, I say, for a working man to have such questions solved as these fossils of the Coal Measures served to raise. But they *were* at length in some measure solved. I was taught to look to those forms of the existing flora of our country that most resembled the forms of its flora during the Carboniferous period. And, strange to tell, I found I had just to fall back on my old juvenile imaginings, and to form my first approximate conceptions of the forests of the Coal Measures by learning to look at our ferns, club-mosses, and equisetaceæ, with the eye of some wondering traveller of Lilliput lost amid their entanglements, like Gulliver among those of the