

features it resembled the succeeding flora of the Carboniferous period, it seems in all its forms to have been specifically distinct. It was the independent flora of an earlier creation than that to which we owe the coal. For the meagreness of the paper in which I have attempted to describe it as it occurs in Scotland, I have but one apology to offer. My lecture contains but little ; but then, such is the scantiness of the materials on which I had to work, that it could not have contained much : if, according to the dramatist, the "amount be beggarly," it is because "the boxes are empty." Partly, apparently, from the circumstance that the organisms of this flora were ill suited for preservation in the rocks, and partly because, judging from what appears, the most ancient lands of the globe were widely scattered and of narrow extent, this oldest of the floras is everywhere the most meagre.

pearance may be due to the inverted folds of the strata." On the other hand, M. Alcide D'Orbigny regards it as decidedly Old Red ; and certainly its *Sphenopteris* and *Lepidodendron* bear much more the aspect of Devonian than of Carboniferous plants.