

Respecting the vegetation of the country there is little to say, for the ferns and lepidodendrons afford but feeble and fragmentary evidence. It may have been that the whole region stood at a comparatively high and bleak level, or it may be that the plant-bearing localities remain to be discovered. This, however, we know, that in North America, in equivalent strata, there lie buried the remains of a large and luxuriant flora, which generically has close affinities with that of the succeeding Carboniferous Epoch. Such plants as we have lie, some at the base, and others near the top of the British Old Red Sandstone, which, indeed, in some areas gradually merges into the Carboniferous strata, that, under varying marine and wide-spread terrestrial conditions, form the next stage of one long Continental Epoch.