fishes of that age. "How I wish I could sit under its shade!" was the smiling reply of the great zoölogist; and when we think of the great accumulations of Laurentian carbon, and that we are entirely ignorant of the forms and structures of the vegetation which produced it, we can scarcely suppress a feeling of disappointment. Some things, however, we can safely infer from the facts that are known, and these it may be well to mention.

The climate and atmosphere of the Laurentian may have been well adapted for the sustenance of vegetable life. We can scarcely doubt that the internal heat of the earth still warmed the waters of the sea, and these warm waters must have diffused great quantities of mists and vapours over the land, giving a moist and equable if not a very clear atmosphere. The vast quantities of carbon dioxide afterwards sealed up in limestones and carbonaceous beds must also have still floated in the atmosphere and must have supplied abundance of the carbon, which constitutes the largest ingredient in vegetable tissues. Under these circumstances the whole world must have resembled a damp, warm greenhouse, and plants loving such an atmosphere could have grown luxuriantly. In these circumstances the lower forms of aquatic vegetation and those that love damp, warm air and wet soil would have been at home.

If we ask more particularly what kinds of plants might be expected to be introduced in such circumstances, we may obtain some information from the vegetation of the succeeding Palæozoic age, when such conditions still continued to a modified extent. In this period the club-mosses, ferns, and mare's-tails engrossed the world and grew to sizes and attained degrees of complexity of structure not known in modern times. In the previous Laurentian age something similar may have happened to Algæ, to Fungi, to Lichens, to Liverworts, and Mosses. The Algæ may have attained to gigantic dimensions, and