

the Great Lakes, was occupied by a vast inland sea, studded with coral islands, the long Appalachian ridge had begun to assume, along with the old Laurentian land, something of the form of our present continent, and on the margins of this Appalachian belt there were wide, swampy flats and shallow-water areas, which, under the mild climate that seems to have characterised this period, were admirably suited to nourish a luxuriant vegetation. Under this mild climate, also, it would seem that new forms of plants were first introduced in the far north, where the long continuance of summer sunlight, along with great warmth, seems to have aided in their introduction and early extension, and thence made their way to the southward, a process which, as Gray and others have shown, has also occurred in later geological times.

The America of this Erian age consisted during the greater part of the period of a more or less extensive belt of land in the north with two long tongues descending from it, one along the Appalachian line in the east, the other in the region west of the Rocky Mountains. On the seaward sides of these there were low lands covered with vegetation, while on the inland side the great interior sea, with its verdant and wooded islands, realised, though probably with shallower water, the conditions of the modern archipelagoes of the Pacific.

Europe presented conditions somewhat similar, having in the earlier and middle portions of the period great sea areas with insular patches of land, and later wide tracts of shallow and in part enclosed water areas, swarming with fishes, and having an abundant vegetation on their shores. These were the conditions of the Eifel and Devonshire limestones, and of the Old Red Sandstone of Scotland, and the Kiltorcan beds of Ireland. In Europe also, as in America, there were in the Erian age great ejections of igneous rock. On both sides of the Atlantic there were somewhat varied and changing conditions of