

irrespective of stratigraphical considerations, the subject lost its geological importance. But, when a good series has been obtained in any one region of some extent, the case becomes different. Though there is still much imperfection in our knowledge of the Cretaceous and Tertiary floras of Canada, I think the work already done is sufficient to enable any competent observer to distinguish by their fossil plants the Lower, Middle, and Upper Cretaceous, and the latter from the Tertiary; and, with the aid of the work already done by Lesquereux and Newberry in the United States, to refer approximately to its true geological position any group of plants from beds of unknown age in the West.

An important consequence arising from the above statements is that the period of warm climate which enabled a temperate flora to exist in Greenland was that of the later Cretaceous and early Eocene rather than, as usually stated, the Miocene. It is also a question admitting of discussion whether the Eocene flora of latitudes so different as those of Greenland, Mackenzie River, northwest Canada, and the United States, were strictly contemporaneous, or successive within a long geological period in which climatal changes were gradually proceeding. The latter statement must apply at least to the beginning and close of the period; but the plants themselves have something to say in favour of contemporaneity. The flora of the Laramie is not a tropical but a temperate flora, showing no doubt that a much more equable climate prevailed in the more northern parts of America than at present. But this equability of climate implies the possibility of a great geographical range on the part of plants. Thus it is quite possible and indeed highly probable that in the Laramie age a somewhat uniform flora extended from the Arctic seas through the great central plateau of America far to the south, and in like manner along the western coast of