

in Eastern America, especially in the St. John beds, it might be a fair inference that the north-eastern end of the Appalachian ridge was the original birthplace or centre of creation of what we may call the later Palæozoic flora, or a large part of that flora.”

When my paper was written I had not seen the account published by the able Swiss palæobotanist Heer, of the remarkable Devonian flora of Bear Island, near Spitzbergen.¹ From want of acquaintance with the older floras of America and Western Europe, Heer fell into the unfortunate error of regarding the Bear Island plants as Lower Carboniferous, a mistake which his great authority has tended to perpetuate, and which has even led to the still graver error of some European geologists, who do not hesitate to regard as Carboniferous the fossil plants of the American deposits from the Hamilton to the Chemung groups inclusive, though these belong to formations underlying the oldest Carboniferous, and characterized by animal remains of unquestioned Devonian age. In 1872 I addressed a note to the Geological Society of London on the subject of the so-called “Ursa stage” of Heer, showing that though it contained some forms not known at so early a date in temperate Europe, it was clearly Devonian when tested by North American standards; but that in this high latitude, in which, for reasons stated in the report above referred to, I believed the Devonian plants to have originated, there might be an intermixture of the two floras. But such a mixed group should in that latitude be referred to a lower horizon than if found in temperate regions.

Between 1870 and 1873 my attention was turned to the two subfloras intermediate between those of the Devonian and the

ably should be preferred to it, as pointing to the best development of this formation known, which is on the shores of Lake Erie.

¹ Trans. Swedish Academy, 1871, *Journal London Geological Society*, vol. xxviii.