

## LIFE OF THE CARBONIFEROUS PERIOD.

**PLANTS.** — Forests and jungles made of Cryptogams of the tribes of Ferns, Equiseta, and Lycopods, along with Gymnosperms related to the Cycads and Yews, and covering interminable marshy plains and fields, were the striking

1031.



Carboniferous vegetation. Russell Smith.

feature of the coal era. Though desolated again and again, either universally or partially, by the returning waters, and over the large submerged areas kept desolate for many centuries or series of centuries again and again, the verdure in all its luxuriance spread over the emerging land, with little change in the foliage, for other times of luxuriant growth and of peat-making. Only toward the close of the era, when the Permian period was commencing, had the forests lost the larger part of their great trees of the tribe of Lycopods.

Unlike the present world, there were no Angiosperms and no Palms. It is not positively known that there were Endogens of any kind. There was certainly no grass over the fields, the most common of Endogens. With Angiosperms and Endogens absent, there were no conspicuous flowers, no beautiful foliage except that of the Ferns and fern-like trees, and no fruit