

the hills of fossil wood in that country. And, remarkable enough, that extinct Arctic Flora includes four species of the largest trees in the world, of which two only survive--the *Sequoia sempervirens* and *S. gigantea* of California. These prodigious trees played an important part in the forests of the miocene period; they are found fossilized in Europe, Asia, and America, as well as in the polar regions.

Prof. Heer distinguishes three kinds of cypress *Taxodium*, *Thujaopsis*, and *Glyptostrobus*, of which the last two are still living in Japan. The elegant twigs of the *Thujaopsis* are identical with those sometimes found embedded in amber.

Among the deciduous trees are a number which resemble the beech and chestnut of the present day. The *Fagus Deucalinois*, which flourished beyond the 70th degree of north latitude, nearly resembles our common beech—*Fagus sylvatica*—the leaves being of the same forms and dimensions and the same venation, that, were they not toothed at the extremity, it would not be easy to describe the difference. The tree appears to have been widely spread in the north, for its remains are found in Iceland and Spitzbergen as well as in Greenland. There is even more variety among the oaks; eight species have been discovered in Greenland alone, most of them with large, beautifully-formed leaves. One example (*Quercus Olufsoni*), which can be traced from the north of Canada to Greenland and Spitzbergen, is the analogue of the *Q. Prinus* of the United States. The plane and poplar were also largely represented. The willow, on the contrary, is very rare; a surprising fact, when we remember that in the present day the willow forms one fourth of the woody vegetation of the Arctic zone. The birch was abundant in Iceland; where, also, a maple and a tulip-tree have been found. The magnolia, the walnut, a species of 'um and two species of vine grew in Greenland, a large-leaved lime and an alder in Spitzbergen. In short, Prof. Heer, with all the interesting fossils before him, sees in imagination the polar regions of the miocene period covered with great forests of various trees, leafy and resinous, the leaves in some instances extraordinarily large, where vines and ivy interlaced their wandering branches, while numerous shrubs and handsome ferns grew beneath their shade, and these forests extended to the lands bordering on the Pole, if not to the very Pole itself.—*The Athenæum*.

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