

appear to notice, the pinnules are articulated upon the stem, and leave scars where they have fallen off. When in Belfast last summer I was much interested by finding in Prof. Thomson's collection a specimen from Caithness, which shows a plant apparently of this kind, with the same long narrow pinnae or leaflets, attached, however, to thicker stems, and rolled up in a circinate manner. It seems to be a plant in veneration, and the parts are too much crowded and pressed together to admit of being accurately figured or described; but I think I can scarcely be deceived as to its true nature. The circinate arrangement in this case would favour a relationship to ferns; but some Lycopodiaceous plants also roll themselves in this way, and so do the branches of the plants of the genus *Psilophyton*."

No figure of the plant was given, and Mr. Carruthers, if he noticed the reference, very probably did not connect it with the plant which he received from Sir Philip Egerton. His figure however, published in the *Journal of Botany* for 1873, leaves no room to doubt that he has had in his possession the counterpart of Thomson's specimen, of which a figure is given in this paper. My interpretation of it differs considerably from his, and as the matter is of some palaeontological interest, I shall proceed to describe the specimen from my point of view.

The specimen consists of a short erect stem, on which are placed somewhat stout alternate branches, extending obliquely outward and then curving inward in a circinate manner. The lower ones appear to produce on their inner sides short lateral branchlets, and upon these and also upon the curved extremities of the branches, are long narrow linear leaves placed in a crowded manner, and which are the "tufts of linear bodies" referred to by Mr. Carruthers. The specimen is thus not a spike of fructification but a young stem or branch in veneration, and which when unrolled would be of the form of those peculiar pinnate *Lycopodites* of which *L. Vanuxemii* of the American Devonian and *L. pennsylvanicus* of the European Lower Carboniferous are the types, and it shows, what might have been anticipated from other specimens, that they were low tufted plants, circinate in veneration. The short stem of this plant is simply furrowed, and bears no resemblance to the detached branch of *Lycopodites Milleri* which lies at right angles to it on the same slab (see figure). As to the affinities of the singular type of plants to which this specimen belongs, I may quote from my Report on