

enormous delta upwards of seven hundred miles in extent, and beyond it where now waves the tall grass of the western prairies, rolled the great dark pristine ocean. Mountain and valley and hill were clothed with a most luxuriant vegetation of the most singular types, but on the deltas it was so rank as to appear one mass of matted foliage. The tall and slender calamite cast its lance-like shadows in the sunlight. The graceful sigillaria crowned the banks of the rivers, its engraved and fluted stem giving the forest all the classic majesty of a Grecian portico, but with more gorgeous capitals of feathery foliage of the brightest emerald. While the lepidodendron rose o'er all, the mouldings on its bark caused by its imbricated leaf stocks anticipating all the fret work and tracery of Gothic architecture. And as a background, clinging to the hills, stood sombre forests of the great conifer or Araucanian pine, rising two hundred feet into the air, the forest king of that empire of vegetable life. Yes, of vegetable life! Oh how quiet must have been the face of nature. How silent those woods. Not a thing of life moving among those hills. There was no immortal intelligence to gaze upon that glorious prospect. But a great work was going on. For the whole earth was then a mighty laboratory. Nature was toiling for man. We reap the benefit. Is there then a heart unwilling to pay a tribute of gratitude and thankfulness to the beneficence of that God who formed the carboniferous series? We think not.

P. F. O.

BRITISH AMERICA.

CHAPTER V.—[Concluded.]

HISTORY OF THE LOWER PROVINCES TILL THEIR SEPARATION IN 1784.

43. About this time* the Indians gave the colonists much trouble. A feud was now raging between the Mohawks of Canada and the Micmacs of the North (i. e. the Gulf) Shore, in which the former, who were superior both in numbers and courage, got the advantage, driving off many of their enemies, and the *habitans* settled among them, to St. John's Island. They returned about the year 1670. About twenty years after, the Micmacs themselves becoming jealous of the growing strength of the *habitans*, rose against them, and slew or drove off many of them. Generally speaking, however, the Indians were much better friends with the French than with the English, because the former intermarried with them, and also because the pomp of the Romish ceremonials were more congenial to their taste than the plainer Protestant ritual. The coldness and neglect, indeed sometimes active opposi-

* 1651—as stated in preceding number