

Some formations were laid down in deep seas, others in shallows. The carboniferous, or coal-bearing was one of silent swamps where enormous tree ferns, horsetails, and other cryptogams grew rank in an atmosphere laden with moisture and having in it an amount of carbonic acid far in excess of what exists in our most sultry tropic swamps. Our peat bogs represent the first stages of coal formation, but the conditions of to-day are not at all favorable to the laying down of such deposits of coal as exist in the carboniferous.

In examining the fossil remains of plants preserved in the Carboniferous and the Permian we are at once struck with the dissimilarity to our existing flora. The *dadoxyl* on a fossil pine is perhaps the only plant which, in the light of modern days we might consider normal. The two species which have been found have no relatives, now existing, in North America, and the Araucarian pines of the Southern hemisphere are somewhat removed.

An account of our most common fossil plants might be interesting but most people have not the time or the opportunity to collect and examine them. To anyone interested Dawson's report of 1871 is helpful though as might be expected from the short time taken in the survey, some of the judgments arrived at were based on very limited observations and will be modified by more careful examination. For instance *knorria* was supposed to be the branches of *dadoxylon* but I have found it in numberless instances in a position which proves it to be a tissue surrounding the pith of that plant.

To be Continued.

Look Afar.

By Pastor J. Clarke.

A traveller, hasting on his tourist way,
 Gazed on the various sights and scenes around,
 But missed the grandeur that around him lay,
 Because he did not take the highest ground;
 Alas! how much of joy, of good, we all forego,
 Because, to tell the truth, we stand too low.

TRVON, P. E. I.