

It has been suggested in Mr. White's paper on page 9 that "possibly the limestones of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia which are regarded as Lower Carboniferous, should be assigned to a higher position." In this connection it may be stated that the stratigraphical sequence of the Carboniferous rocks proper has within the last twenty-five years been so thoroughly worked out that this assumption is scarcely tenable. Not only in the celebrated Joggins section in Nova Scotia, but in many other places both in that province and in New Brunswick is their true position beneath the rocks which are regarded as Millstone-grit well established. If we admit the proposition of Mr. White, therefore, that the limestones regarded as Lower Carboniferous may be assigned to a higher position, the curious anomaly will result that our Carboniferous rocks proper, representing many thousands of feet of strata, must occupy the place now assigned to the upper or Permo-Carboniferous or possibly to the horizon of the Cretaceous. This would open an entirely new field of investigation, and is a proposition not likely to be favorably entertained, at least in the present state of our knowledge on this subject.

The age of the Lower Carboniferous limestones is, however, held to be abundantly established from their contained fossils which are well defined at many points.

Much has been said in the several papers already published on this question, as to the correlation of the several formations known as Devonian and Carboniferous, and this correlation has recently been apparently based entirely upon a supposed similarity of plant remains found over a wide area. The first correlation on the subject, however, was that made by Sir William Dawson, in which he made the St. John Devonian the equivalent of much of the Gaspé Devonian series.¹ Until further evi-

¹ Acad. Geol. Suppl., 1878, page 70; Suppl. 1891, page 19.