

Carboniferous of Europe." "*Pecopteris decurrens* sp. nov. This Fern so closely resembles *Pecopteris Serlii* and *P. lonchitica* that I should have been disposed to refer it to one or other of these species. . ."; see p. 47 following, for notes about the characters on which he separates it. It is needless to multiply quotations from remarks of the kind, one more will suffice, from the 1871 monograph, page 51, where Dawson says, "In the species of *Neuropteris*, the Devonian flora approaches very nearly to that of the Carboniferous, several of the species being closely allied to common, coal formation ferns." But he does not notice that *all* the species of *Neuropteris* are from the St. John beds, and none from the Gaspé or Perry beds (which we now know to be true Devonian), a circumstance that alone would serve to put a modern palaeobotanist on his guard about the St. John flora.

As early as 1866 Geinitz pointed out that the insects described by Seudder as Devonian were on the same slab as a fragment of *Pecopteris plumosa*; he said "welches Vorkommen dafür sprechen dürfte, dass dieser Schiefer der Steinkohlenformation selbst, nicht der Devonformation, angehört." But the controversy did not take a serious aspect till thirty years later when in the Canadian Survey, Dr. R. W. Ells and Mr. H. Fletcher on the one hand, and Dr. Ami on the other, published several articles in various journals (see literature at end of this paper) and made reports in the Survey Reports for 1897, '98, '99. The subject was treated in Whiteaves' (1899) Vice-presidential address to the American Association of Science, and mention made of a report on the plants sent by Dr. Kidston to the Canadian Survey, as well as of the opinion of Mr. David White of Washington. Quoting from this report, Whiteaves (1899 p. 216) gives the following abstracts of Dr. R. Kidston's opinions—"the question of the age of the Riversdale series is inseparably connected with the question of the age of the plant beds of St. John, New Brunswick." "The species contained in the Riversdale series are also met with in the St. John plant beds, where, however, a greater number of species has been discovered." "I do not wish to express my views as to the age of the St. John plant beds too strongly, but from what I have been able to learn from a study of the literature of the subject and an examination