

the coal formation at the Joggins, Nova Scotia, they discovered in the interior of a fossil tree (*Sigillaria*) the bones of a small animal which they called the *Dendrerpeton Acadianum*, from the way in which it was found. They also discovered in the same tree the shell of a land snail (*Pupa*), the first ever found in rocks of the age. We were informed by the only person who witnessed these discoveries, that nothing could have exceeded the delight of Sir Charles and his companions when they made them. No gold miner could have looked with greater joy upon his first nugget, than they did on this indistinct jaw bone of one of the very smallest, and lowest animals of creation, and the little land shell associated with it. And yet the delight of these geologists was not extravagant. These fossils were more valuable than the most precious of stones; for in all the enormous coal fields of North America, they were the only evidence of the existence of the two class of animals to which they belonged, during the vast period of time which must have elapsed during the formation of the American carboniferous rocks. It is by such discoveries as these—it is by thus bringing to light, and interpreting the indistinct hieroglyphics of nature, that we are enabled to read the wondrous history of the past.

The *Dendrerpeton Acadianum** is supposed by the most eminent comparative anatomists who have examined the fossil, to be a perennebranchiate batrachian, or in plain English a description of frog. It is thought to have been about two feet six inches in length, and not unlike in its form to the labyrinthodon, and the fossils already described found in the coal formation of Germany, thus forming another link in the chain which connects the carboniferous rocks of Europe and America, showing that they belong to the same geological period, and were deposited under the same circumstances.

When in Nova Scotia three years ago we were shown the place where the *Dendrerpeton* was found, and an upright fossil tree (*Sigillaria*), which we were informed was like that in which it was discovered. It was not however sufficiently developed from the bank for us to examine it, but we have understood that Mr. Dawson discovered last summer in a tree near the same place, probably the same one, another fossil animal. We have not seen a description of this fossil, but presume that it was of the same genera as the *dendrerpeton*. Mr. Dawson has also found since his first discovery some cranial bones in the Pictou coal mines of Nova Scotia, embedded in a lump of coal, which undoubtedly belonged to the tree labyrinthodon, or in other words to an extinct genus of frogs, so called, from the intricate windings, or labyrinthine markings observed when a section is made across their teeth.

One fact we think will now be evident to our readers, that although land animals did exist during the formation of the coal

* The tree fossil of Acadia.