

Mr. Salter described in 1857* fragments of fossil wood from the Scottish Devonian, having the structure of *Dadoxylon*, though very imperfectly preserved; and Prof. McNab has proposed † the generic name *Palaeopitys* for another specimen of coniferous wood collected by Hugh Miller, and referred to by him in the "Testimony of the Rocks." From Prof. McNab's description, I should infer that this wood may after all be generically identical with the woods usually referred to *Dadoxylon* of Unger (*Araucarioxylon* of Krans). The description, however, does not mention the number and disposition of the rows of pores, nor the structure of the medullary rays, and I have not been able to obtain access to the specimens themselves. I have described three species of *Dadoxylon* from the Middle and Upper Erian of America, all quite distinct from the Lower Carboniferous species. There is also one species of an allied genus *Ormoxylon*, besides the somewhat exceptional *Prototaxites*, which occurs in the Lower Erian, not far above the top of the Upper Silurian. All these have been carefully figured, and it is much to be desired that the Scottish specimens should be re-examined and compared with them.

Prof. Alleyne Nicholson has kindly placed in my hands some ancient plants which though not Scottish nor Devonian are of interest in this connection. One of these is a specimen from the Lower Ludlow of Bow Bridge. From its regular ramification, its apparently woody structure, and its traces of rudimentary leaflets, it may not improbably belong to the genus *Psilophyton*. If so, this genus occurs at about as low a horizon in Europe as in Canada.

The remarkable plants from the Skiddaw slates described by Nicholson as *Buthotrephis Harlnessi* and *B. radiata* ‡ have also been examined by me, as well as some additional specimens from the same formation collected by Dr. G. M. Dawson. Nicholson says of the latter species:—"If its vegetable nature be conceded, it can hardly be referred to the Algae." It seems not unlikely, as Nicholson indeed suggests, that both plants may belong to the same species, and that this had the habit of growth of *Annularia* and resembled *A. laxa* of the American Devonian.

* Journal London Geological Society.

† Transactions Edinburgh Botanical Society, 1870.

‡ Geological Magazine, Vol. VI.