

they describe or delineate is the result of laborious collecting, of skilful and painstaking preparation of slices, of careful scrutiny under the microscope, of thoughtful study and comparison, of nice and accurate drawing, and, finally, of lucid description and scientific interpretation.

No man had a better title to indulge in large generalizations respecting the origin and development of the vegetable kingdom, but he rarely referred to such subjects, except now and then in conversation or in private letters. He usually, like the greater naturalists of our time, displayed in these matters that modesty which attends on wide knowledge, and leaves hasty and presumptuous theories to those who are inflated with a little wisdom and fail to realize how small it is. He expressed, some years ago, his position in one respect by saying that the time had not yet come for constructing a genealogical tree of the vegetable kingdom; and in his address as president of the Geological Section at the Southport meeting of the British Association, after discussing in some detail the various types of fossil vegetation, and insisting that if the Carboniferous and Devonian floras were evolved from pre-existing types, we have to look for these in rocks which have afforded no trace of land vegetation, he refers to the few places in which Carboniferous plants with well preserved structures are found, and the wonderful revelations which these have afforded. He then sums up as follows:

"Hence I conclude that there is a vast variety of Carboniferous plants of which we have as yet seen no traces, but every one of which must have played some part, however humble, in the development of the plant races of later ages. We can only hope that time will bring these now hidden treasures into the hands of future palaeontologists. Meanwhile, though far from wishing to check the construction of any legitimate hypothesis calculated to aid scientific inquiry, I would remind every too-ambitious student that there is a haste that retards rather than promotes progress, that arouses opposition rather than produces conviction, and that injures the cause of science by discrediting its advocates."*

* British Association Report, 1883.