

Black Walnut of America (*Juglans nigra*) lies buried in the Miocene beds at Oeningen, and Europe has imported the far superior walnut from Persia to supply its place. The writer has been informed that the late Prof. Agassiz, on his arrival in this country, applied to a gentleman well known for his study of the American forest trees, and asked for an introduction to the Hickory Family of America, remarking that all the members with which he was acquainted in Europe were fossil in the tertiary beds of his native land. Lastly, no fewer than eight species of *Smilax*, a genus scarcely known in Europe, but abundant in America, have been found in the Miocene of Switzerland.

We may here remark in passing that anyone desiring to see for himself the close resemblance between the European fossils and their living American representatives can do so by paying a visit to the Agassiz Museum at Cambridge where, in one of the upper galleries, may be seen a collection which has no equal or second on this side of the Atlantic.

It is just necessary here, in order to avoid leaving a flaw in the argument, to state that many of these species have been discovered in beds of equal or greater age in this country. It is therefore impossible to urge that they may have passed from Europe to America so lately that changes have not yet had time to develop themselves. On the contrary, some geologists are inclined to maintain that they existed in America before they appeared in Europe. At all events, we are warranted in asserting that during the Miocene Age trees of the kinds named grew in Europe and America, as well as in Greenland and Spitzbergen and other points in the far north.

We do not propose here to investigate the causes of these changes. It is sufficient for our purpose to maintain the fact that during tertiary geological time the European Flora has changed, and largely changed, while the American Flora has remained stationary or nearly so. Plants which have changed in this interval thereby show an ability to change—a plasticity—which may be shown again should occasion arise. Plants which have not changed during the same interval show