

mained for Mr. Hartt and his *collaborateurs* to amass the materials which, in the hands of the sagacious Principal of McGill University, were to show that these plant-bearing sandstones contained a Devonian flora.

The writer had already found in these beds a sufficient number and variety of species to enable Sir Wm. Dawson to pronounce upon their Devonian age, but the rich harvest of fossils—exquisitely preserved ferns, asterophyllites, and psilophyta were not discovered until Mr. Hartt entered the field. To the collection and observation of these plants he gave the whole of his vacations during the years 1861, '62 and '63; and the result of this work has been of the most enduring value to science. Every bed of the unique section at the "Fern ledges" in Lancaster, West of St. John, was carefully studied, its fossils collected and its remains recorded. Such a work had not been done before in the Maritime provinces of Canada. The thoroughness of the work will be seen from the fact that while Hartt discovered scores of species in these beds, no new species of plants have been added to those which crowned his researches, and remains of only two insects beside those he found.

The discovery of insects of such great antiquity was perhaps the most striking result of these investigations. A few insects mostly related to the cockroaches had previously been found in the Coal Measures in several countries, but Hartt's discovery of insect wings in these older rocks threw a new light upon the history of insect life in the first geological ages. These insects were of five species, and were placed in the hands of Dr. S. H. Scudder of Boston for study. He referred them all to the Neuroptera; in part to new, in part, doubtfully, to old families, and suggested that some of the forms were synthetic types. But their important bearing on the history of insect-life was not then fully reached by that sagacious and experienced student of insects, for he has since referred them all to a great Palæozoic order, now quite extinct, the Palæodictyoptera of Goldenberg, from which he conceives that all the modern orders of insects have arisen.