

himself from an examination of the plant remains from the two areas, and also by Mr. Kidston.

Mr. Fletcher, working independently in the eastern portion of Nova Scotia, had in the meantime encountered precisely similar rocks and reached a similar conclusion as to their age. While therefore the inference was plain that these formations in the two provinces were similar in age, Sir William Dawson, from an examination of a few plants found in the beds near Riversdale, some years previously, had found what he supposed to be a Millstone-grit horizon at that place. The collection on which this determination was based was, however, but small and lacked the completeness of material found in the St. John beds. Moreover, these strata, near Arichat, at the Strait of Canso, East River of St. Mary's, Middle River of Pietou, the mouth of Shubenacadie River, Brookfield and the Cobequid hills, were assigned to the Devonian and lower horizons by Sir William Dawson.

In his report on the Fossil Plants of the Devonian and Silurian, 1871, page 70, Sir William calls attention to the great similarity existing between the floras of the Devonian and Carboniferous systems in many particulars. The presence of some forms, therefore, poorly preserved and presenting a Millstone-grit facies, should not be taken as conclusively overturning the conclusions which he had arrived at from the systematic study of the great collections from the similar sediments in New Brunswick which he had previously assigned to the Devonian. Certain it is that the plants which he found at Riversdale did not in any way affect his own opinion as to the age of the latter.

The question of lithological resemblance between rocks of similar formations over wide areas is also entitled to some consideration in discussing such a problem. Thus the strata of the Carboniferous proper are distinctly much less altered both in New Brunswick and in Nova Scotia than those which we have regarded as of Devonian age.