

scars left by the separation of the petioles. Stems, with the external surface and internal organization preserved, and the leaves and fruits of several species, have been discovered in a fossil state, and for the most part in tertiary deposits. Among the silicified stems which abound in Antigua and other West Indian islands, associated with corals in a similar state of mineralization, are many which decidedly belong to this family (see Plate V. fig. 1.). Some species have been found in the Carboniferous formation, and in the Oolite. *Carpolithes Bucklandi* (see *Lign.* 34, fig. 2.) is supposed to be the fruit of a tree allied to the palms; and two other fruits, from the coal, *Trigonocarpum Olivæforme*, and *T. Nöggerathi*, have probably the same natural affinity; see *Lign.* 34, figs. 3 and 4.

A group of fossil palm trees has very recently been noticed and described by Dr. Owen of New Harmony, in the state of Indiana, in one of the upper members of the Illinois coal-field. From twenty to thirty erect trees were discovered, with their main roots attached and ramifying in the clay, and their stems in the coal and sandstone above, as if submerged on the spot where they originally grew. A carbonaceous crust envelopes the trunks, which are covered with lozenge-shaped scars, having a transverse direction, and presenting a diversity of figure in the petioles, that indicates at least three species of palms.*

* Silliman, Amer. Journ. Science, October 1843.