detected.* The situation and condition of these silicified trees, indicate great changes in the relative position of the land and sea in that part of Egypt; the trees must have grown on the dry land formed by the elevated bed of a former ocean; this must have been submerged, and covered by beds of sand and rolled pebbles; and, lastly, the whole series of deposits were raised to their present situation, the retiring waters having removed the loose portion of the once continuous strata that were last formed, and dispersed them, with fragments of the petrified trees, over the surface of the Egyptian and Lybian deserts.†

RETROSPECT.

Our limits do not admit of a more extended notice of fossil vegetables; but the preceding survey will afford the student a general view of the subject. Above six hundred species of plants have been discovered in the British strata, according to the recent catalogue of Mr. Morris;‡ among which there are

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* On the Geology of Egypt, by Lieut. Newbold, F.R.S. Geol. Proc. III. p. 782.

† Ibid.

‡ A Catalogue of British Fossils, by John Morris, Esq. F.G.S. 1 vol. 8vo. 1843.