

are seventy-six species. The *grasses have given way to ferns*, for the ferns and fern-like plants are the most numerous in New Zealand, and cover immense districts. They *replace the gramineæ, or grasses, of other countries*, and give a character to all the open land of the hills and plains. Some of the arborescent species grow to thirty feet and more in height, and the variety and elegance of their forms, from the minutest species to the giants of their kind, are most remarkable." *

In the accumulations of vegetable matter now in the progress of formation in the morasses, and bays, and creeks of New Zealand, the remains of ferns largely predominate; and I am informed by my son,† that in the estuaries they are associated with shells of the genera *terebratula* and *trigonia*.

ON COLLECTING BRITISH FOSSIL VEGETABLES.

From what has been advanced, the student will have anticipated, that to obtain an illustrative collection of the fossil vegetables of Great Britain, different localities must be visited. The fruits, and stems of the palms, *Coniferæ*, and many species of

* Dr. Dieffenbach's New Zealand.

† Mr. Walter Mantell, of Wellington, New Zealand.