

CHAPTER XXV.

Lower Carboniferous or Gypsiferous Formation of Nova Scotia.
—Why formerly considered as newer than the productive Coal.—Determination of its true Age.—Sections near Windsor.
—Supposed Reptilian Footsteps.—Section on the Shubenacadie.—Large Masses of Gypsum.—Their Origin.—Volcanic Action contemporaneous with Nova Scotia Coal Measures.—Limestone with Marine Shells.—Table of Organic Remains of the Carboniferous Limestone of Nova Scotia and Island of Cape Breton.

THE productive coal-measures near Minudie, described in the last chapter, may be regarded as the middle of the carboniferous series of Nova Scotia; while the strata above them, including the beds with *Modiola, h, i* (fig. 19, p. 151), and the sandstones and shales farther to the south, in the same region, together with a corresponding series near Pictou, and the lower sandstone of Prince Edward's Island, ascertained by Mr. Dawson to contain coal-plants, may be all classed as the Upper Carboniferous division, in which no seams of coal have yet been found. Lastly, we may regard an enormous mass of red and brown sandstones and red marls, the lower portions of which include beds of gypsum, and limestones charged with marine shells and corals, as the Lower Carboniferous or gypsiferous series. In this division grits and shales, with some true coal plants and some thin seams of impure coal are occasionally met with.

Before my visit to Nova Scotia, the group last mentioned had been considered, chiefly, I believe,