

reaching the wooded district of the Eastern slope of the Andes, yet was very productive of results in the botanical department.

The great difference of elevation, and the variation in climate consequent thereon, would lead one to expect a greater variety in the vegetation than was actually found. Forests were no where met with, nor were any of the palm tribe seen; very few of the many tropical plants were perceived even on the coast. The smaller shrubs were seldom found, except in the lower region, where their limit is circumscribed to the well-watered district. Thickets are very rare, and in the higher regions appear to be altogether wanting. The vegetation of Peru on the whole is characterized by an air of tameness, indicating but a slight change of season, and has been classed into four distinct botanical regions, which are easily distinguished; they will claim particular attention, and afford much interesting matter, in the Botanical Report.

The geological region passed over was also one of much interest, and from the observations of the gentlemen, the following information has been derived.

The geological structure, as far as their observations went, corresponds to that of North Chili, with the exception of a narrow belt of sedimentary rocks along the sea-coast, west of the granitic range, which is wanting in that country. This belt includes the island of San Lorenzo, and others, as well as the coast itself, to the extent of from seven to ten miles from the sea-beach. These sedimentary rocks are argillaceous, distinctly stratified, and more or less slaty, the layers being in many places discoloured by the red oxide of iron. In other places they appeared of a black colour, as if in the vicinity of coal-beds, of which the existence was spoken of, but we did not discover any unequivocal traces of this substance. Some conspicuous examples of faults were noticed by Mr. Dana, along the coast of San Lorenzo. Many minerals were also found by this gentleman; among them gypsum was of frequent occurrence, as well as some fossils: for fuller information, reference is made to the Geological Report.

The hills and mountains to the eastward, joining the above sedimentary rocks, are exclusively of granite, which extends in width to the distance of forty-five geographical miles beyond Yaso. In places, it has very much the appearance of a stratified rock; it is much broken and variable in its character, so as to render it somewhat deceptive. Dr. Pickering observes, that this peculiar character or appearance is owing to the slow process of the decomposition of the rock in this dry climate, and which would in other places, subject to the ordinary