

highly-organized flowering plant in full flower. The specimen, as you are aware, presents no structure; it is an impression, and therefore I can only judge of its possible affinities from appearances. Now, there is nothing whatever known amongst Cryptogamic plants having the most remote resemblance to this *Antholithes*, nor amongst Gymnospermous Phænogams, but there are, both amongst Monocotyledons and Dicotyledons, genera to which it may plausibly be compared. I allude in the former class to genera of *Bromeliaceæ*, *Scitamineæ*, and *Orchideæ*; in the latter to *Labiataæ*, *Lobeliaceæ*, and some others. Upon the whole, the resemblance is strongest to *Bromeliaceæ*, amongst which the genus *Pitcairnia* is ranked, and which suggested the specific name to Lindley."

Another antholite, apparently of a different species, found by Mr. Prestwich in the coal strata of Coalbrook Dale, and described by Mr. Morris under the name of *Antholites anomalus*, is figured in the Transactions of the Geological Society of London (2d ser., vol. 5, pl. xxxviii. fig. 5). It is quite unlike any thing known in the Gymnospermous or Cryptogamous classes, and greatly resembles, in what is supposed to be the evolution of its floral organs, the ordinary phænogamous type. Nevertheless, as both Mr. Robert Brown and Dr. Hooker still regard certain terminal appendages belonging to it as enigmatical, we cannot declare that the affinities of this curious genus are yet made out.

SILURIAN AND CAMBRIAN ROCKS, AND M. BARRANDE'S THEORY OF COLONIES.

SINCE I alluded in the text (p. 441) to M. Barrande's discoveries in Bohemia, in reference to the Paleozoic rocks, I have enjoyed, during the summer of 1856, the high privilege of visiting in his company the field of his successful labors near Prague, of observing the order and succession of the rocks as interpreted by him, and of inspecting the vast collections which he has accumulated in the course of more than twenty years. These stores are comparable in number and importance rather to the results of a Government survey than to the acquisitions of a private individual. More than 1500 species of fossil invertebrata, previously unknown, with the exception of a few of the Brachiopoda, and all belonging to strata older than the Devonian, have rewarded his skilful search.

M. Barrande has shown, in a recent treatise, that the fauna called by him primordial, a fauna contemporaneous in date with the Cambrian rocks of Great Britain, was also coeval with the fossils of the Alum Schists, and limestones of Sweden, so well described by M. Angelin. In both countries, this fauna, the most ancient yet known, consists almost exclusively of trilobites, scarce any progress having yet been made in bringing to light any mollusca and echinoderms of the same period. Enough, however, has been done to show that distinct natural