of the kingdom, in especial by that extensive tract of coast which stretches from the Buchan-ness to the Firth of Tay; and the geologist now recognises amber as a vegetable production of the Middle Tertiary ages. It is the resin of an extinct pine, which the fossil botanist has only of late learned to term the *Pinus succinifer*, or amber pine, but which the Prussian peasantry, who gather amber on the southern shores of the Baltic, used for ages to associate with this substance, from its occurrence in a fossil state in the same beds as *amber wood*. The ornamental character of this precious resin seems to have been appreciated by the native Scotch at an early period : beads of amber have been found in the old sepulchral barrows of the kingdom. Its value, however, as we learn from the first notice of it which occurs in our written history,—that of Hector Boece,—has not been *always* appreciated. After describing it, not very inadequately, as 'ane maner of goum or electuar, hewit like gold, and sa attractive of natur, that it drawis stra, flax, or hemmes of claethis to it in the samen maner as does an adamant stone grow,' he goes on to say that 'twa year afore the comin af [his] buke to licht (1524) thair arrivit an gret lompe of this goum in Buchquhane, als meikle as an hens; and wes brocht hame by the herdes quhilk wer kepand thair bestis, to thair housis, and cassin in the fere. And becaus they fand an smell and odour thairwith, they scha to thair maister that it wes garand for the *in*sens that is maid in the kirkes. Thair maister wes ane rud man as thay wer; and tuk bot ane litell part thairof, and left the remanent part behind him as mater of litell effect. All the parts of this goum, quhen it wes broken, wes of hew of gold, and schone lyke the licht of an candell. The maist part of this goum or electuar wes destroyit be rud peple afore it cam to any wise mannis eirs; of quhome may be verifyet the proverb, "The sow cares not for balme." Als sone as I wes advertisit thairof, I maid sic diligence that ane pairt of it