Measures we pass on to its fauna, terrestrial and aquatic;—a fauna which, although less picturesque than its wondrous flora, filled with all manner of strange shapes, seems to have borne a corresponding character in uniting great numeric development to a development comparatively limited in classes and orders; and with respect also to the extreme antiqueness of many of its types. The prevailing forms of both flora and fauna belong equally to a fashion that has perished and passed away.

It was held, up till a very recent period, that there had existed no reptiles during the Carboniferous ages. Man has been longer and more perseveringly engaged among the Coal Measures than in any of the other formations; and, long ere geology existed as a science, what used to be termed its figured stones,—plants, shells, and fishes,—were, in consequence, well known to *collectors*,—a class of people sent into the world to labour instinctively as pioneers in the physical sciences, without knowing why. I have seen prints of some of these figured stones of two centuries' standing, and have succeeded in recognising as old acquaintance the Spirifers and Ferns which had sat for their pictures to artists who knew nothing of either. During the last sixty years there have been many collections made of the Carboniferous fossils, and many coal-fields intelligently examined, but not a trace of the reptile detected. It was not until Sir Charles Lyell's second visit to the United States, five years ago, or rather not until the publication of his second series of travels, three years after, that it was known to European geologists that the coal-fields of Pennsylvania, in the United States, had, like the Trias[1] of the south of Scotland and of the sister kingdom, their Cheirotherium, of, however, not only, as might be anticipated, a different species, but of even a different genus, from that of the newer formation, though not less decidedly

[1] Permians.—W. S. S.