

In like manner, in the earlier or Triassic deposits of the Secondary division, the reptilian remains are comparatively inconsiderable ; and they are almost equally so in its Cretaceous or later deposits. It was during those middle ages of the division represented by its Liassic, Oolitic, and Wealden for-

læozoic period was characterized by a gorgeous flora ; and as thus sophistically generalizing in the first instance, in order to make a fallacious use of the generalization in the second, with the intention of misleading non-geologic readers. Such, however, as may be seen from the following extracts from the "Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Science at Philadelphia," is the charge preferred against me by a citizen of the United States.

"Mr William Parker Foulke asked the attention of the Society to a lecture by Mr Hugh Miller, recently republished in the United States under the title of 'The Two Records, Mosaic and Geological,' and made some remarks upon the importance of maintaining a careful scrutiny of the logic of the natural sciences. . . . Mr Miller teaches that, in the attempt to reconcile the two 'records,' there are only three periods to be accounted for by the geologist, viz. 'the period of *plants* ; the period of *great sea-monsters and creeping things* ; and the period of *cattle and beasts of the earth* ;' and that the first of these periods is represented by the rocks grouped under the term *Palæozoic*, and is distinguished from the *Secondary* and *Tertiary* chiefly by its gorgeous flora ; and that the geological evidence is so complete as to be patent to all, that the first great period of organized being was, as described in the Mosaic record, peculiarly a period of herbs and trees, yielding seed after their kind. The general reader, not familiar with the details of geological arrangement, could not fail to infer from such a statement, used for such a purpose, that the Palæozoic rocks are regarded by geologists as forming one group representative of one period, which can properly be said to be distinguished as a *whole* by its gorgeous flora ; and that it is properly so distinguished *for the argument in question*. It was familiar to the Academy, as well as to Mr Miller, that from the *carboniferous* rocks downward (backward in order of time), there have been discriminated a large number of periods, differing from one another in mineral and in organic remains ; and that the proportion of the *carboniferous* era to the whole series is small, whether we regard the thickness of its deposits or its conjectural chronology. It is only of this *carboniferous* era, *the latest of this series*, that the author's remarks could be true ; and even of this, if taken for the entire surface of the earth, it could not be truly asserted that 'the evidence is so complete as to be patent to all,' that the quantity of its vegetable products distinguish it from the earth's surface during the era in which we live. To confound by implication all the periods termed Palæozoic, so as to apply to them as a whole what could be true if at all, only of the *carboniferous* period, is a fall-