

stems vary in size, from a few inches to two feet in circumference, and from one to five or six feet in length. They are of a very irregular and varied shape, and present no indications of branches; some specimens taper at both ends, while others are of a clavated or club-form, like some of the *Cactææ*, or *Euphorbia*. They are silicified, and permeated with numerous tubular cavities, which extend, in a tortuous and irregular manner, in a longitudinal direction. These channels, which are often lined with quartz crystals, pass over the surface, as well as penetrate the substance of the stems, and thus produce an eroded appearance, whence the specific name, *erosa*. When found in beds of clay, or marl, they are enveloped in a friable carbonaceous crust, which soon flakes off, and exposes the stony surface. Under the microscope there are indications of monocotyledonous structure, but of no decided character.*

FOSSIL PALMS, *and other Vegetables of the Isle of Sheppey*.—The most important deposit of fossil

* When the face of the cliff, immediately behind Pelham Place, Hastings, was cut away, in the course of the building operations, some years since, I observed several layers of lignite, in which were long portions of these curious stems. Very large masses of this endogenite are often thrown up by the waves on the shore between Hastings and St. Leonard's.—(See Dr. Fitton's delightful "Guide to the Geology of Hastings.")