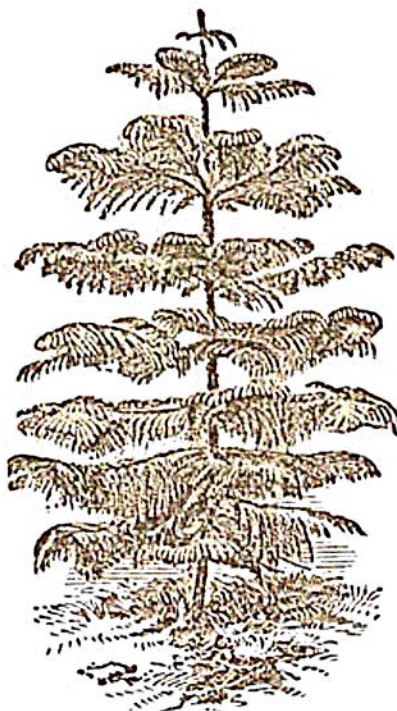


two great divisions of the coniferous family, araucarians and pines. The huge trees of Craigleith and Granton were of the former tribe, and approximate more nearly to *Altingia excelsa*,

Fig. 53.



ALTINGIA EXCELSA, (NORFOLK-ISLAND PINE.)

*From a young specimen in the Botanic Garden, Edinburgh.*

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this point seem to have been derived, make a similar remark. It was rare, he said, to find a bit of coal that exhibited the organic structure. The case, however, is far otherwise; and the ingenious mechanic and his employer were misled, simply by the circumstance, that it is rare to find pieces of coal which exhibit the ligneous fibre, existing in a state of keeping solid enough to stand the grinding of the lapidary's wheel. The lignite usually occurs in thin layers of a substance resembling soft charcoal, at which, from the loose adhesion of the fibres, the coal splits at a stroke; and as it cannot be prepared as a transparency, it is best examined by a Stanhope lens. It will be found, tried in this manner, that so far is vegetable fibre from being of rare occurrence in coal, — our Scotch coal at least, — that almost every cubic inch contains its hundreds, nay, its thousands, of cells.