

bands of shale. True Coniferæ were probably abundant on the drier ground, for their stems (*Dadoxylon*, *Araucarioxylon*, *Pinites*) have been met with, particularly in the tuffs of ancient volcanic cones, on which they no doubt grew, and in sandstone, where they occur as driftwood, perhaps from higher ground (Fig. 370). It should be remembered that the flora preserved in the Carboniferous rocks is essentially that of the low grounds and swamps. The fruit

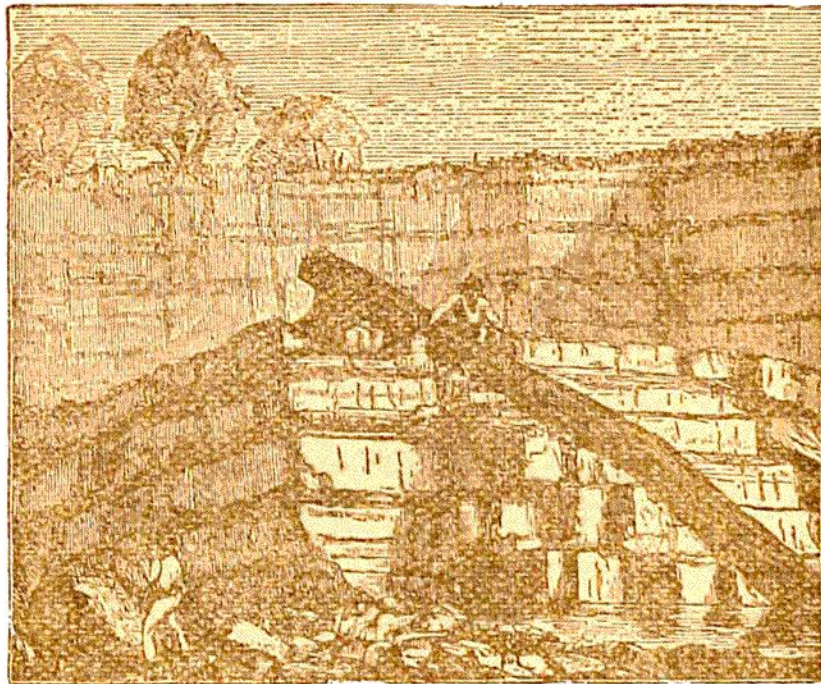


Fig. 370.—Coniferous Tree-trunk imbedded in Sandstone, Craigleith, Edinburgh (after Witham).

known as *Trigonocarpus* is supposed to be coniferous, somewhat like the fruit of the living *Salisburia*. That true monocotyledons existed in the Carboniferous period was until recently supposed to be proved by the discovery of a number of spikes, referred to the living order of *Aroideæ* (*Pothocites*), in the lower part of the Carboniferous system of Scotland; but Mr. R. Kidston has shown that the specimens are almost certainly the fructification of *Bornia*, a genus of *Calamite*.<sup>191</sup>

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<sup>191</sup> Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. May, 1883, p. 297.