

“ meal by the violence of the storm : but it is
“ very rare that we hear of such a tree being
“ torn up by the roots. Let us now consider its
“ particular figure—connected with its roots,
“ which lie hid below ground, it rises from the
“ surface thereof with a large swelling base,
“ which at the height of one diameter is gene-
“ rally reduced by an elegant curve, concave to
“ the eye, to a diameter less by at least one
“ third, and sometimes to half of its original
“ base. From thence its taper diminishing more
“ slow, its sides by degrees come into a perpen-
“ dicular, and for some height form a cylinder.

“ After that, a preparation of more circum-
“ ference becomes necessary for the strong inser-
“ tion and establishment of the principal boughs,
“ which produces a swelling of its diameter.
“ Now we can hardly doubt but that every sec-
“ tion of the tree is nearly of an equal strength
“ in proportion to what it has to resist: and
“ were we to lop off its principal boughs, and
“ expose it in that state to a rapid current of
“ water, we should find it as much capable of
“ resisting the action of the heavier fluid, when
“ divested of the greatest part of its clothing, as
“ it was that of the lighter when all its spread-
“ ing ornaments were exposed to the fury of the
“ winds: and hence we may derive an idea of
“ what the *shape* of a column of the greatest
“ stability ought to be, to resist the action of ex-