

these elegant arborescent Ferns, with airy foliage, as finely cut as the most delicate lace! Nothing at the present day can convey to us an idea of the prodigious and immense extent of never-changing verdure which clothed the earth, from pole to pole, under the high temperature which everywhere prevailed over the whole terrestrial globe. In the depths of these inextricable forests parasitic plants were



Fig. 39.—Trunk of *Calamites*. One-fifth natural size.

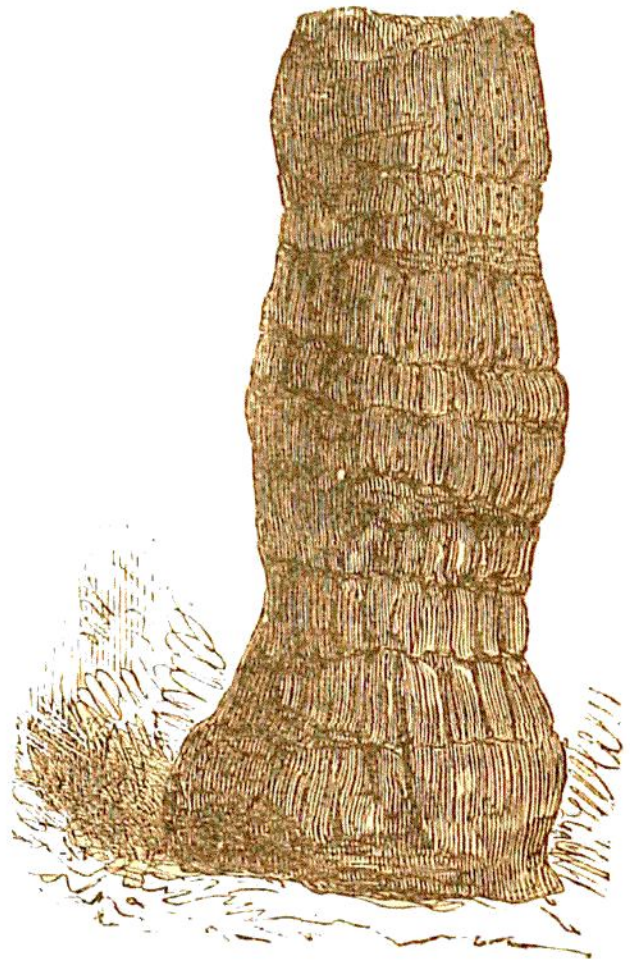


Fig. 40.—Trunk of *Sigillaria*. One-tenth natural size.

suspended from the trunks of the great trees, in tufts or garlands, like the wild vines of our tropical forests. They were nearly all pretty, fern-like plants—*Sphenopteris*, *Hymenophyllites*, &c.; they attached themselves to the stems of the great trees, like the orchids and *Bromeliaceæ* of our times.

The margin of the waters would also be covered with various plants with light and whorled leaves, belonging, perhaps, to the Dicotyledons; *Annularia fertilis*, *Sphenophyllites*, and *Asterophyllites*.

How this vegetation, so imposing, both on account of the dimensions of the individual trees and the immense space which they occu-