

Here too, are imbedded stems covered all over with seal-like impressions arranged in diagonally winding series. Such a tree was *Lep-i-do-den'-dron*, or "scaly tree," which grew to a height of a hundred feet, with a stem twelve feet in circumference. Some of the smaller samples of these stems or branches bear a remote resemblance to the exterior of a snake; and I have had specimens brought as petrified snakes! Did you ever observe that the more ignorant people are, the more confident they are of the correctness of their interpretations of nature? Some men entertain no thought whatever that these fossil sticks are any thing different from what their fancy suggests. They do not observe that the specimen is broken at both ends; that there is no taper toward each extremity, as in a snake, and that the forms mistaken for scales are not closely in contact as in snakes, and are indented by a distinct figure, rather than elevated and flat, with a delicate raised line along the middle, as in most snake "scutes," as we call them.

We find also another kind of stems, with similar seal-like impressions, but arranged in lines lengthwise of the stem and more remote from each other. This kind of tree is *Sig-il-la'-ri-a* or "seal-tree." Quite often we find the stump and roots of these trees deeper down in the sandy clay in which the tree originally grew. These are marked by scattered, deep impressions, as if made by a sharp stick. Before these were known to be the roots of *Sigillaria*, they were named *Stig-ma'-ri-a* or "mark-tree."

These trees were not like any species now living. They produced no flowers or fruits which could be compared with those of modern vegetation. Yet we must admit that they possessed resemblances to several different kinds of modern vegetation. When we get a fossil organism of this kind, we say it is "comprehensive." Thus, *Lepidodendron* had some structures which affiliated it with our modern "ground pine" (*Lycopodium*). In another particular it was like the Cycads of tropical regions. In some characters of the wood it was a fir or pine, while in others it was a fern. The "scars" re-