

Another very remarkable fern, which some botanists have supposed may belong to a higher group than the ferns, is *Megalopteris* (Fig. 26).

Some of the Erian ferns attained to the dimensions of tree-ferns. Large stems of these, which must have floated out far from land, have been found by Newberry in the marine limestone of Ohio (*Caulopteris antiqua* and *C. peregrina*, Newberry),* and Prof. Hall has found in the



FIG. 25.—An Erian tree-fern. *Caulopteris Lockwoodi*, Dawson, reduced. (From a specimen from Gilboa, New York.)

Upper Devonian of Gilboa, New York, the remains of a forest of tree-ferns standing *in situ* with their great masses of aërial roots attached to the soil in which they grew (*Caulopteris Lockwoodi*, Dn.).†

These aërial roots introduce us to a new contrivance for strengthening the stems of plants by sending out into the soil multitudes of cord-like cylindrical roots from

* "Journal of the Geological Society," 1871.

† *Ibid.*