

a height of 5,000 to 7,000 feet above sea-level, and are much sought after by tourists as one of the wonders of the country. Reports came to Europe concerning the largest of them which were quite fabulous, but we have received accurate accounts of them from Prof. Whitney. The tallest tree measured by him has a height of 325 feet, and in the case of one of the trees the number of the rings of growth indicated an age of about 1,300 years. It had a girth of 50 to 60 feet.

We know only two living species of *Sequoia*, both of which are confined to California. The one (*S. sempervirens*) is clothed with erect leaves, arranged in two rows, very much like our yew-tree, and bears small, round cones; the other (*S. gigantea*) has smaller leaves, set closely against the branches, giving the tree more the appearance of the cypress. The cones are egg-shaped, and much larger. These two types are therefore sharply defined.

Both of these trees have an interesting history. If we go back into the Tertiary, this same genus meets us with a long array of species. Two of these species correspond to those living at present: the *S. Langsdorfi* to the *S. sempervirens*, and the *S. Couttsiæ* to the *S. gigantea*.* But, while the living species are confined to California, in the Tertiary they are spread over several quarters of the globe.

Let us first consider the *Sequoia Langsdorfi*. This was first discovered in the lignite of Wetterau, and was described as *Taxites langsdorfi*. Heer found it in the upper Rhone district, and there lay beside the twigs the remains of a cone, which showed that the *Taxites Langsdorfi* of Brongniart belonged to the Californian genus *Sequoia* established by Endlicher. He afterward

* *S. Couttsiæ* has leaves like *S. gigantea*, and cones like those of *S. sempervirens*.