

Of the durability of these ancient trees we of course know nothing; though modern instances are on record where, under certain circumstances, submerged trees may last for some centuries. We may conjecture that where upright or inclined stems are enveloped in one continuous stratum, the rate of accumulation was probably, on the whole, somewhat rapid. The general character of the strata among which

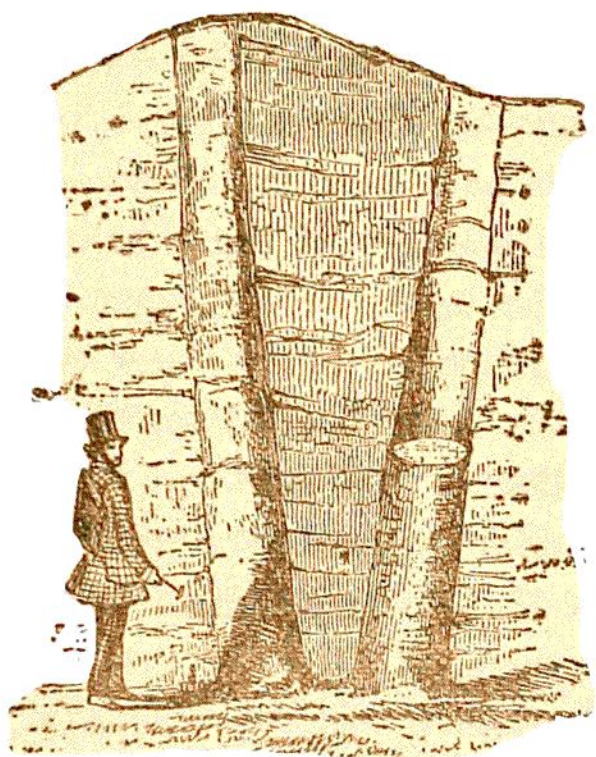


Fig. 222.—Erect trunks of *Sigillaria* in sandstone, Cwm Llech, head of Swansea Valley, Glamorganshire. (Drawn by the late Sir W. E. Logan.)

These stems (the largest five and a half feet in circumference) formed part of a series in the same rock, their roots being imbedded in a seam of shale (an old soil) full of fern leaves, etc. The specimens were removed to the Museum of the Royal Institution of South Wales at Swansea.<sup>14</sup>

such erect tree-trunks occur, obviously indicates extremely shallow water conditions with continuous or intermittent subsidence. Unless soon submerged, dead trees would be subject to speedy subaerial decomposition. It occasionally happens that an erect trunk has kept its position even during the accumulation of a series of strata around it (Fig.

<sup>14</sup> De la Beche, "Geol. Observer," p. 501.