

also exceedingly abundant, and grew beneath the shade of these gigantic trees. It was the combination of these lofty trees with such shrubs (if we may so call them), which formed the forests of the Carboniferous period. The trunks of two of the gigantic trees, which flourished in the forests of the Carboniferous period, are represented in Figs. 39 and 40, reduced respectively to one-fifth and one-tenth the natural size.

What could be more surprising than the aspect of this exuberant vegetation!—these immense *Sigillarias*, which reigned over the forest! these *Lepidodendrons*, with flexible and slender stems! these *Lomatophlojos*, which present themselves as *herbaceous* trees of gigantic height, furnished with verdant leaflets! these *Calamites*, forty feet high!

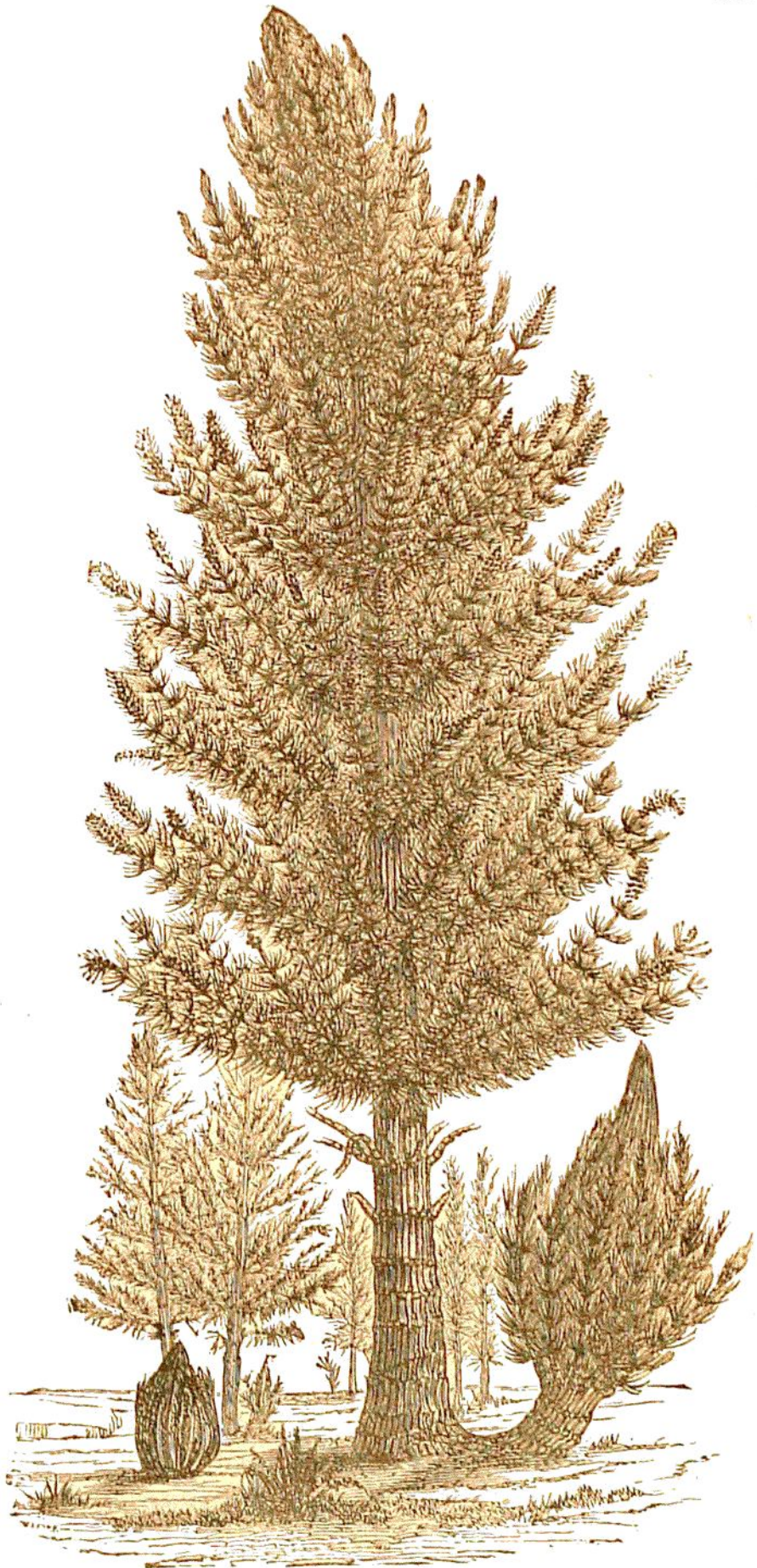


Fig. 38.—Calamite restored. Thirty to forty feet high.