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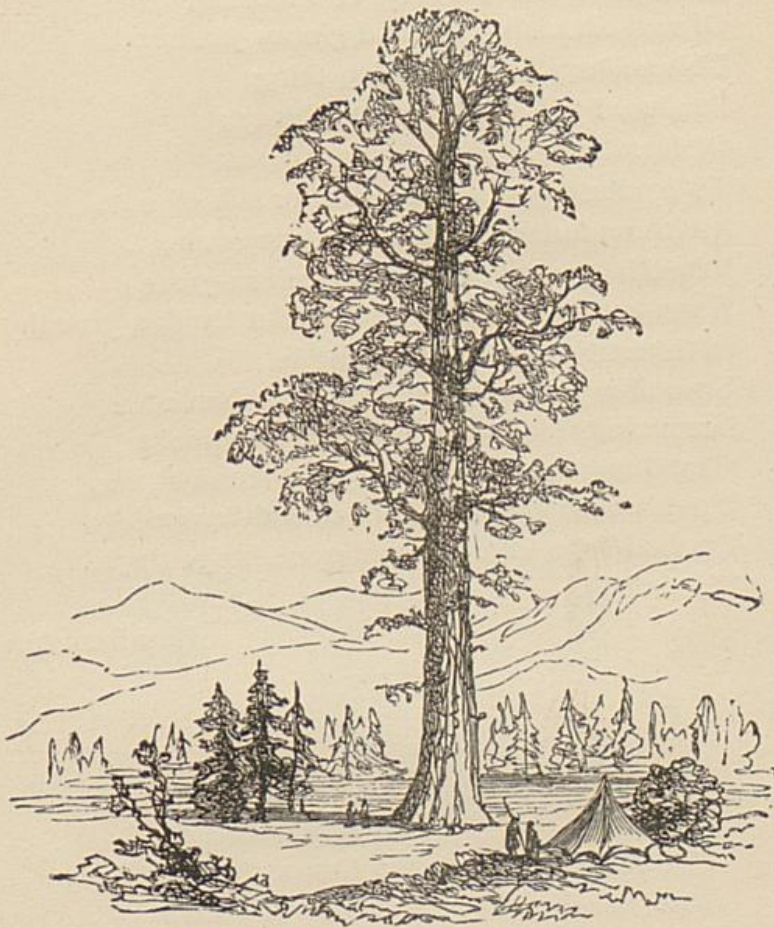
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The language and poetry of flowers

London, 1877

Yew Trees.

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THE WELLINGTONEA GIGANTEA.

YEW TREES.

THERE is a Yew-tree, pride of Lorton Vale,
Which to this day stands single, in the midst
Of its own darkness, as it stood of yore :
Not loth to furnish weapons for the bands
Of Umfraville or Percy ere they marched

To Scotland's heaths ; or those that crossed the sea
 And drew their sounding bows at Azincour,
 Perhaps at earlier Crecy, or Poitiers.
 Of vast circumference and gloom profound
 This solitary Tree ! a living thing
 Produced too slowly ever to decay ;
 Of form and aspect too magnificent
 To be destroyed. But worthier still of note
 Are those fraternal Four of Borrowdale,
 Joined in one solemn and capacious grove ;
 Huge trunks ! and each particular trunk a growth
 Of intertwined fibres serpentine
 Up-coiling, and inveterately convolved ;
 Nor uninformed with Phantasy and looks
 That threaten the profane ;—a pillared shade,
 Upon whose grassless floor of red-brown hue,
 By sheddings from the pining umbrage tinged
 Perennially.

Wordsworth.

OSMUNDA FERN.

THAT tall fern,
 So stately, of the queen Osmunda named ;
 Plant lovelier, in its own retired abode
 On Grasmere's beach, then Naiad by the side
 Of Grecian brook, or Lady of the Mere,
 Sole-sitting by the shores of old romance.

