

“ sometimes concealed in lumps of marly earth;
“ and sometimes lodged, shell and all, in the
“ body of the hardest marble. In their proper
“ shell they assume different figures; but, in
“ general, they somewhat resemble a muscle,
“ except that their shell is found actually com-
“ posed of five or more pieces, the smaller
“ valves serving to close up the openings left by
“ the irregular meeting of the two principal
“ shells. But their penetration into rocks, and
“ their residence there, makes up the most won-
“ derful part of their history.

“ This animal, when divested of its shell,
“ resembles a roundish, soft pudding, with no
“ instrument that seems in the least fitted for
“ boring into stones, or even penetrating the
“ softest substance. It is furnished with two
“ teeth indeed, but these are placed in such a
“ situation, as to be incapable of touching the
“ hollow surface of its stony dwelling: it has
“ also two covers to its shell, that open and shut
“ at either end; but these are totally unservice-
“ able to it as a miner. The instrument with
“ which it performs all its operations, and bu-
“ ries itself in the hardest rocks, is only a broad
“ fleshy substance, which somewhat resembles
“ a tongue, issuing from the bottom of its shell.
“ With