

“ With this soft, yielding instrument, it perforates the most solid marbles ; and having, while young, made its way by a very narrow entrance into the substance of the stone, as it grows larger it encreases the size of its apartment.”

The improbability of such animals being capable of penetrating into rocks, and even the hardest marbles, aided the supposition that they entered the stone while it was in a soft state, which hardening round them, by the petrifying quality of the water, they were enabled to form their habitations at pleasure. This opinion, though maintained by several of the ancient philosophers, has been successfully objected to by Dr. Bohads, who, in support of the contrary being the fact, observes, that “ many of the pillars of the Temple of Serapis, at Puetoli, were penetrated by the pholades ; and there can be no doubt of the animals having pierced into them since their erection, for no workmen would have laboured a pillar into form, if it had been honey-combed by worms in the quarry. In short, there can be no doubt but that the pillars were perfectly sound when erected, and that the pholades have attacked them during that time in which they continued

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