

and a few *arachnides*, or spiders. The most curious fact is, that *some of the insects are identical with species which now inhabit Provence*. It seems probable that these insects were brought together from different localities by floods, and mountain streams; yet, as Mr. Curtis observes, all of them might have inhabited moist and shady forests. The laminated marls contain also the coverings of a fresh-water crustacea, called *cypris*, which swarms in our pools and stagnant waters, and must be familiar to all who have seen the exhibition of the oxy-hydrogen microscope; living specimens being commonly shown, and appearing somewhat like the head and feet of a flea protruding from an oval case or shield, and swimming by means of their fine *cilia*, which resemble pencils of hair. These crustacea shed their cases, some of which are silicious and others calcareous, annually, and the surface of the mud spread over the bottoms of lakes is often strewn with their relics. The marls of Aix, as well as of many other fresh-water formations, abound in fossil *cyprides*, which sometimes constitute entire seams or laminæ, that alternate with the marl. The seed-vessels of the *chara*, a common plant in our ditches and ponds, also occur in profusion; they were formerly supposed to be shells, and from their peculiar structure received the name of *gyrogonites*, which they still bear, although their real nature has long since been ascertained.* In conclusion,

* See an Essay on the fresh-water marls of Scotland, by Mr. Lyell.