

been obtained at different soundings along this part of the Sussex coast; and in some specimens numerous other species of recent shells, as oysters, mussels, whelks, &c. enter into the composition of the consolidated rock. The shelly and coralline limestones and sandstones, so abundant in the ancient strata of England, have been formed in a similar manner; and when the modern conglomerate of Brighton shall have been permeated with crystalline matter, and subjected to great pressure by superincumbent deposits, through countless centuries, and at length be elevated above the waters, it will constitute beds of shell-marble, in some mountain range, and become an interesting, perhaps the only memento, of the races of mollusca and polyptaria of the present seas, when all record and traces of Great Britain and its inhabitants shall be destroyed.

Off the Kentish coast, near the mouth of the Thames, a bank of consolidated shells, chiefly of one species, is in the progress of formation, from which blocks may be obtained of great firmness and solidity (*Lign.* 88.); these, when cut and polished (fig. 3.), display a variety of markings, produced by the sections of the shells. Extensive shoals of loose shells, composed almost wholly of the *Cardium edule*, exist in several localities, near the embouchure of the Thames; and these are continually shifting, with the changes of the wind and tide; it is only in a few places that consolidated