

other limestones, occasioned by its operations. Some species burrow in wood, and often commit serious ravages in piles and other submarine works constructed of timber. In the earlier ages of our planet we find evidence of the existence of the same kind of living instruments for the disintegration of floating wood, and the reduction of masses of rock into detritus. But no traces of these shells have been found in strata below the Oolite. One species occurs in the Coral Rag, another in the Kimmeridge Clay; two in the Galt and Green Sand; and three or four in the tertiary deposits. In the Crag, blocks of stone are occasionally found with the shells of *Pholades* occupying the perforations they originally formed and inhabited. But all the specimens I have observed in the Galt, Green Sand, and Oolite, were *xylophagous* (*wood-eating*) species. In the Shanklin Sand, masses of fossil wood, literally honey-combed, by the perforations of *Pholades*, are frequent; but the shells themselves are rare. Mr. Sowerby has figured a beautiful specimen of silicified wood, from Sandgate, with numerous shells of this genus (*Pholas priscus*. *Min. Conch.* tab. 581.). *Lign.* 113, fig. 5, represents a fragment of fossil wood, with three shells *in situ*; *a*, a shell seen longitudinally; and below, the rounded anterior extremities of two other shells are exposed.

Masses of wood perforated by *Pholades*, from which all traces of the shells have disappeared, have given rise to some curious fossil remains, which are