

umbones, or bosses, are generally smooth, or longitudinally undulated. Those which have no cardinal teeth are arranged under the genus, *Anodon*: but it is not necessary for our present purpose, to enter into minute conchological distinctions. In number, variety, and beauty, the species which inhabit the large rivers of North America present a striking contrast with the few and homely British fresh-water mussels; nor have we, in a fossil state, any shells of this family at all comparable with those living types. The earliest fossil *Uniones* appear in certain layers of clay, and argillaceous ironstone, belonging to the Carboniferous system of Derbyshire, Coalbrook Dale, &c. (*Min. Conch.* Vol. I. tab. 33.). In the former county, these strata are termed *mussel-band*;* and some beds constitute a compact shell-limestone, which admits of being manufactured into vases, &c., and takes a good polish; the sections of the *Uniones* in this marble, are white, on a dark ground. The Carboniferous strata of Scotland also yield one or two species of *Unio*.

The only other undoubted shells of this genus from the British strata, are, I believe, those first discovered by me in the strata of Tilgate Forest, (*Foss. South D.* p. 45, and *Foss. Tilg. For.* p. 57.), and subsequently found in numerous localities of

* "A solid stratum of ironstone with mussel-shells extends from Tupton Moor to Staveley." Martin's *Petrificata Derbiensia*, pl. 27.