

been excluded artificially from the sea by embankments. When I arrived in this region it was the period of the lowest or neap tides, so that large areas, where the red mud had been deposited, were laid dry, and in some spots had been baking in a hot sun for ten days. The upper part of the mud had thus become hard for a depth of several inches, and in its consolidated form exactly resembled, both in colour and appearance, some of the red marls of the New Red sandstone formation of Europe. The upper surface was usually smooth, but in some places I saw it pitted over with small cavities, which I was told were due to a shower of rain which fell eight or ten days before, when the deposit was still soft. It perfectly recalled to my mind those "fossil showers" of which the markings are preserved in some ancient rocks, and the origin of which was first correctly explained to an incredulous public by Dr. Buckland in 1838. I have already alluded to such impressions of rain-drops when speaking of the ripple-marked flags of the New Red sandstone at Newark in New Jersey. I saw several other examples, during my tour, of similar phenomena, particularly in a bright red deposit of mud thrown down at the mouth of the Patapsco at Baltimore, of which I was able to bring away some consolidated layers. On these, in addition to the smaller cavities due to rain, there are larger ones, more perfectly circular, about the size of large currants, which have been formed by air-bubbles in the mud.

On the surface of the dried beds of red mud at Wolfville on the Bay of Fundy before mentioned, I observed many worm-like tracks, made by *Annelides*