

the contemporaries of the beasts which inhabited the ark? A conclusion thus hastily reached would have suited the preceding age; but the spirit of modern research bids us examine farther. We lay down our little shell, and set out upon the search for evidences to confirm the suspicions already awakened, that it was once the home of a sea-dwelling mollusc.

Go with me first to the coast of the Gulf of Naples. There, near the ancient town of Puzzuoli, at the head of an indentation in the Bay of Baïæ, stand three marble pillars forty feet in height. Their pedestals are washed by the waters of the Mediterranean. The marble pavement upon which they stand, and which was, in the second century, the floor of a temple, or, perhaps, of a bath-house, is sunken three feet beneath the waves. Six feet beneath this is another costly pavement of mosaic, which must have formed the original floor of the temple. What does all this indicate? The foundations of a temple would not be laid nine feet beneath the level of the sea. They must have been built upon the solid land. As the land subsided a new foundation was laid, and a new structure was reared above the encroaching waves. But look upward and examine the surface of the marble. For twelve feet above their pedestals these pillars are smooth and uninjured. Above this is a zone of about nine feet, throughout which the marble is perforated with numerous holes. Exploring these holes, we find them to enlarge inward, and at the bottom of each repose the remains of a little boring bivalve shell—*Lithodomus*. This little bivalve is the same species which is now inhabiting the adjacent waters. We know well its habits. It does not live in the open water. It burrows in the sand, or bores its way into the shells of other molluscs, or into solid stone. But it never climbs trees or marble columns to build its nest, like a bird in the air. How, then,