

tological discoveries. An assemblage of strata named by him the "St. John's Group" is described as underlying rocks that had heretofore been regarded as forming the very base of the Silurian system in America. These St. John's strata may probably be regarded as inclosing the remains of the first considerable fauna that ever lived within the limits of America. Our knowledge of these primeval relics is as yet very imperfect*, being limited to

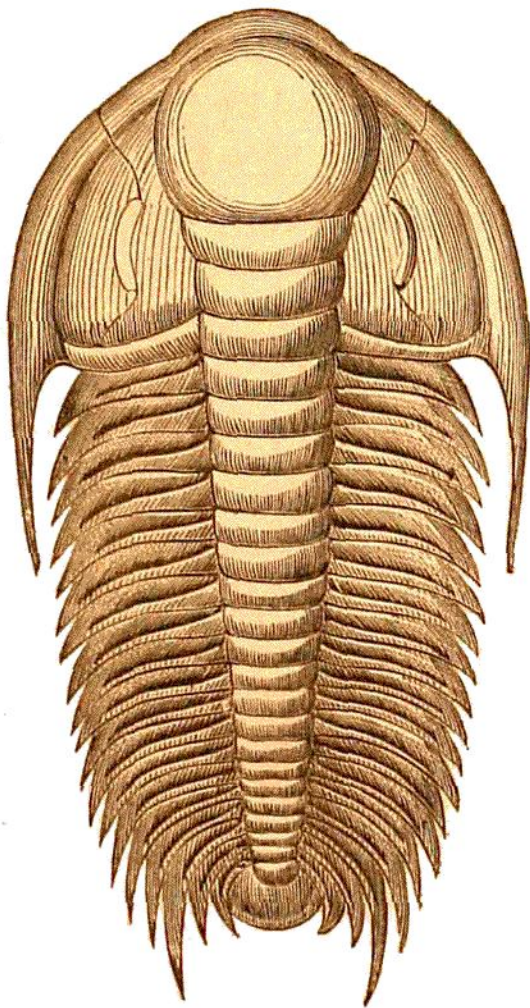


Fig. 21. *Paradoxides Harlani* ($\times \frac{1}{6}$). St. John's Trilobite.

one crinoid, two brachiopods, and half a dozen genera of trilobites. Though they mark generally a great simplicity of organization, one can not but be astonished that in the very outset of animalization upon our globe so high a rank and so great variety of types should have been manifested. If we are to judge from that which is known rather than that which is conjectured, we are compelled to conclude that the varied forms of animal life did not come into being by a gradual evolution from the Eozoön, but as so many original utterances of the all-skilled Artificer of creation.

Of the "Potsdam group" of strata [see Appendix, Note III.], and the organic remains which they inclose, we have learned somewhat more. The "Potsdam sandstone" at the

* Billings (E.): "Catalogues of the Silurian Fossils of the Island of Anticosti," p. 79.