

Madame Jeannette Power, a French lady residing in Sicily, has transmitted to the learned societies of Europe accounts of observations made by herself upon the argonaut of the Mediterranean, which prove that the "native pilot" is the rightful and original owner of the "little bark," while the latter, instead of being devoted to the purposes of fairy navigation, is but a coat of mail for protection against ugly

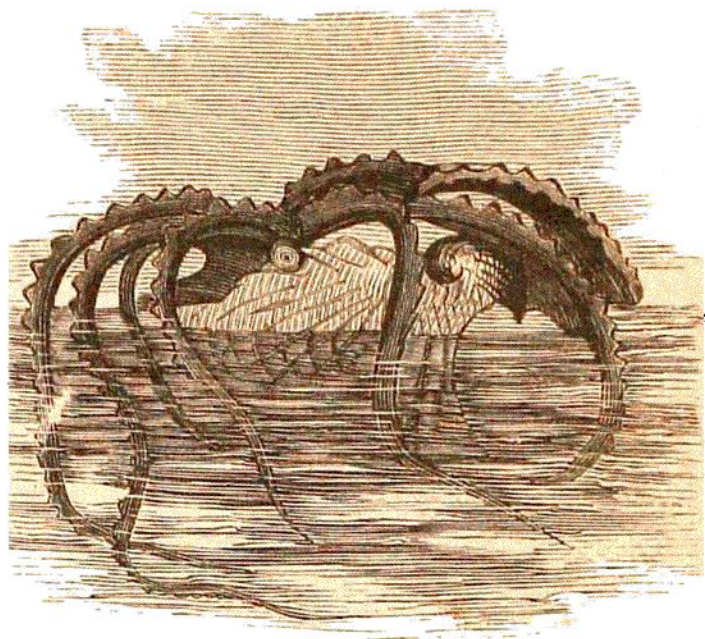


Fig. 43. The Paper Nautilus (*Argonauta Argo*), with the arms of the animal extended.

foes, and the "two-fold sail" is the "mantle" extended over the animal's back, a secretion from which forms and enlarges the shell with the growth of the animal. The propulsive power of the animal, instead of Æolian breezes, is a jet of water squirted from a tube or "funnel," which, like a rocket-power, drives the argonaut backward; and its "tier of oars" is used with the animal inverted, crawling, like a snail, with his house upon his back.

Something still more familiar to every reader is the "cuttle-fish bone," which the apothecary sells for canaries. This substance is not a "bone," and does not come from a "fish," but is a rudimentary shell formed beneath the skin which covers the back of a molluscous animal. The calamaries are similar to the cuttle-fishes, but their shell is horny instead of stony. The poulp, or cuttle-fish of the southern coast of Europe, has been longest known. It was called "polypus" by Homer and Aristotle, because it has