

have passed by, which transformed the aspect of continents, but these relics lay here undisturbed—unburied—so slowly do the sediments accumulate.

But there is indeed life here. Sparse, quaint life; and the species are of archaic and embryonic forms; that is, they resemble creatures which lived in the earlier ages of the world, or creatures which have undergone but a part of their development—crude, uncouth, and alien to the modern world. Here are Crinoids, or Stone Lilies, which, in all other waters, have perished from the earth—save one species long known in the Caribbean Sea. They are an antique type. But from deep waters off the coasts of Florida and Norway, comes up, with other forms, *Rhiz-oc'-ri-nus*, a genus which disappeared from shallow seas unknown millions of years ago; but here, where nothing changes, it has perpetuated its existence through half the history of the world. Between death and the changeless life which here reigns, the difference is slight.

Still more startling in their grotesqueness, are some of the fishes which lie here more than half buried in the mud. Here is one fashioned like a scoop-net. The long, slender body is the handle, and the net is an enormous pouch under the chin, which would take in the whole of the body three times over. Another hangs like an open wide-mouthed meal-bag. In this case, also, the bag hangs suspended from the part where the throat should be. The diminutive body is noticed as an appendage attached to the back side of the bag. It is known by the fins. Four of these bodies might be contained in one pouch. A different, but equally erratic form brandishes an attenuated body like a whip-lash appended to an enormous head, exposing an eye which is nearly half its own diameter. Still again, we note a shark-like form, with enormous gape and horrid teeth, having a range of spines along each side of the slender body, above and below, and, most curious of all, a long, thread-like organ depending from beneath the chin, with a tassel-like tentacle bearing structures for feeling, at the end. Indeed, this reminds us of the piano wire with dredge at the end, which went feeling for examples from this so-called