

lost chapters at the beginning of the story of life may be plausibly restored; and this course is infinitely wiser than to sit by and hug our ignorance, or deny that any chapters have been lost, and proceed to argue as if we had the whole history.

But thanks to the Canadian geologists, the first chapters are *not completely* lost. We have a fragment of a page; and we know about where in the book it belonged. In the lower part of this vast series of rocks are in Canada three great beds of marble or crystalline limestone. In the third, or upper one, occur some forms which appear to be organic. These were brought to the notice of the scientific world in 1856. They have been studied by mineralogists, palæontologists and chemists. They have been subjected to most searching microscopic study. The general opinion is that they are organic remains; and they have by general consent been referred to a group of organisms of low grade called *Fo-ram-i-nif'-era*—the same as that to which *Globigeri'na* belongs (Talk X). A few mineralogists regard them as inorganic. These forms have been obtained at several localities in Canada, as also, in New York, near Troy, in Ireland, in Bohemia and elsewhere. They contain certain features which, in my opinion, could not be regarded as of mineral origin. On the contrary, they closely resemble some structures found in certain *Foraminifera*.

In the mass, we notice a concentric or laminated structure, as if the organism were formed of numerous layers wrapped, one about another. These layers, in most cases, consist alternately of serpentine and carbonate of lime. The serpentine, as is believed, occupies the place of the fleshy part of the animal, while the carbonate of lime is its skeleton; and we may speak of it as coral, for in many respects it was like coral, though produced by an animal much lower in rank than the polyps which secrete true coral. When we prepare extremely thin slices of this skeleton, some minute structures are seen under the microscope, which convince us of their animal nature. The name of this creature is *E-o-zo'-on can-a-den'-se* or the "Dawn Animal of Canada."