

By the help of this living example, we are prepared to investigate the question of the uses, to which all fossil Chambered shells may have been subservient, and to show the existence of design and order in the mechanism, whereby they were appropriated to a peculiar and important function, in the economy of millions of creatures long since swept from the face of the living world. From the similarity of these mechanisms to those still employed in animals of the existing creation, we see that all such contrivances and adaptations, however remotely separated by time or space, indicate a common origin in the will and design of one and the same Intelligence.

We enter then upon our examination of the structure and uses of fossil Chambered shells,

mites, Scaphites, Belemnites, &c. (See Pl. 44), in which the last, or external chamber, seems to have been too small to contain the entire body of the animals that formed them, by Peron's discovery of the well known chambered shell, the Spirula, partially enclosed within the posterior extremity of the body of a Sepia (Pl. 44, Figs. 1, 2). Although some doubts have existed respecting the authenticity of this specimen, in consequence of a discrepancy between two drawings professedly taken from it (the one published in the Encyclopédie Méthodique, the other in Peron's Voyage), and from the loss of the specimen itself before any anatomical examination of it had been made, the subsequent discovery by Captain King of the same shell, attached to a portion of the mutilated body of some undescribed Cephalopod allied to the Sepia, leaves little doubt of the fact that the Spirula was an internal shell, having its dorsal margin *only* exposed, after the manner represented in both the drawings from the specimen of Peron. (See Pl. 44, Fig. 1.)