

Dale,\* and also of the wing of a *Corydalis*, which will be noticed in our description of Pl. 46".

It is very interesting and important, to have discovered in the Coal formation fossil remains, which establish the existence of the great Insectivorous Class Arachnidans, at this early period. It is no less important to have found also in the same formation the remains of Insects, which may have formed their prey. Had neither of these discoveries been made, the abundance of Land plants would have implied the probable abundance of Insects, and this probability would have involved also that of the contemporaneous existence of Arachnidans, to control their undue increase. All these probabilities are now reduced to certainty, and we are thus enabled to fill up what has hitherto appeared a blank in the history of animal life, from those very distant times when the Carboniferous strata were deposited.

The Estuary, or Fresh-water formation of those strata of the Carboniferous series which contain shells of *Unio*, in Coalbrook Dale, and in other Coal basins, renders the presence of Insects and Arachnidans in such strata, easy of explanation; they may have been drifted from adjacent lands, by the same torrents that transported the ter-

\* Our figures (Pl. 46". Figs. 1. 2.) represent these fossils of their natural size. See description of this Plate for further details respecting them.