

Side Arms.

The Side Arms become gradually smaller towards the upper extremity of the column. In the *P. Briareus* (Pl. 52, Fig. 3. and Pl. 53, Fig. 1. and 3.) these amount to nearly a thousand in number.* The numerous side arms of the Briarean Pentacrinite, when expanded, would act as auxiliary nets to retain the prey of the animal, and also serve as hold-fasts to assist it in adhering to the bottom, or to extraneous bodies. In agitated water they would close and fold themselves along the column, in a position which would expose the least possible surface to the

groups, (like modern barnacles), to the masses of floating wood, which, together with them, were suddenly buried in the mud, whose accumulation gave origin to the marl, wherein this curious compound stratum of animal and vegetable remains is imbedded. Fragments of petrified wood occur also in the Lias, having large groups of *Mytili*, in the position that is usually assumed by recent *mytili*, attached to floating wood.

* If we suppose the lower portion of the specimen, Pl. 53, Fig. 2. a. to be united to the upper portion of the fractured stem, Fig. 3, we shall form a correct idea of the manner in which the column of this animal was surrounded with its thousand side arms, each having from fifty to a hundred joints, Pl. 53, Fig. 14. The number of joints in the side arms gradually diminishes towards the top of the vertebral column; but as one of the lowest and largest (Pl. 53, Fig. 14.) contains more than a hundred, we shall be much below the reality in reckoning fifty as their average number.

Each of these joints articulates with the adjacent joint, by processes resembling a mortice and tennon; and the form both of