

prepare the way for the removal of this safeguard, than its being, as it were, honey-combed by numberless stone-borers, that make it their habitation, thus it must be gradually rendered weaker, till it is no longer able to resist the impetus of the waves; the process is very slow, but it is sure; and it is worthy of remark, by what a seemingly weak organ most of these animals are enabled to effect this purpose, a fleshy foot, strengthened by no internal bone or gristle, but upon which they can turn as upon a pivot, and so in due time effect their destined purpose.

I shall now proceed to furnish some examples of the manner in which this is effected: and give an account of some of each of these tribes, beginning with those, and they

Fig. 31.



Solen siliqua.
a. The foot.

are numerous, that make the burrows in the sand to a considerable depth, so that it presents a less solid mass to the action of the waves.

I shall first call the reader's attention to the proceeding of one usually denominated the *razor-shell*, from the supposed resemblance of some of the species to that instrument; in substance and colour they are often like the human nail; and as they, as well as the stone-borers, are stated to emit a phosphoric light, and also are eaten, it seems to me most probable that they are the animals, and not the pholad as is usually supposed, which the Roman naturalist describes under the name *Dactyle*.* These animals burrow in the sand, sometimes to the depth of two or three feet, and never quit the burrow unless by force. Poli says the collectors of them are accustomed to pour oil upon the water, which renders it quite

* See Appendix, note 23.