transverse imbricated laminæ, they are also semi-transparent and very thin. Their byssus has been long celebrated, for it is mentioned by Aristotle.* Its Creator has provided this animal, as we learn from Poli, with a pair of bifid muscles with which it spins this substance, which emerges from the shell opposite the hinge; like the thread of the mussel, it terminates in a sucker, and with it the animal adheres to the rocks and other bodies which it meets with at the bottom of the sea, and thus is enabled to brave the agitation of the waters. They seldom change their station, but they can unfix their byssus, if any circumstance renders such change imperative. In Sicily and Calabria this byssus, which is of a silky appearance, is manufactured into stuffs, stockings, and gloves, which are very fine and warm, but it will take no dye: articles composed of it are expensive, and the manufacture is fast declining. Aristotle observed a little crustaceous animal within the valves of the wing-shell, which he thought was necessary to its existence. Pliny says it is always accompanied by a companion, the *Pinnotheres* or *Pinnophylax*, that when the Pinna opens its shell, a number of small fish boldly enter, and when it is full the crab gives the blind animal notice by a slight bite, who immediately closes his shell, and assigns a portion of the prey to his little useful companion. Small Crustaceans, indeed, both crabs and shrimps, certainly do find their way not only into the shells of the Pinna, but into those of mussels and whelks,† but their object is to defend themselves, especially when their crust is soft, and not to tell the Pinna when to close its doors upon its prey; for its food is the sea-water, or the animalcules it contains.

Fig. 34.

Parasite crab to Pinna muricata.

* See Appendix, note 24.

† Buccinum.