

remaining stationary as above during the day; reasoning from analogy, he suspects they feed on marine plants, the sea-wrack, &c. These creatures slide along very slowly; if accidentally reversed, they recover a prone position by the violent motions of the ligament or zone that surrounds them; and if alarmed they sometimes roll themselves up like wood-lice.

Lamarck proceeds immediately from the Chitonidans to the *Patellidans* or Limpets,\* which also fix themselves so firmly to the rocks, that it requires considerable force to detach them, and sometimes in such numbers that their surface seems quite covered by them. The transition from the former tribe to this, with no intermediate links, seems at first sight violent, and their right to be associated in the same family rather problematical: probably intermediate species will come to light which will render this point more evident than the shell of these animals appears to indicate.

With regard to their functions and the part assigned to them in the great plan of creation, little is known; probably from their numbers in some parts, they may help to soften the rocks, so that they may, at some destined hour, yield more readily to the force of the winds and waves; thus they may be enumerated amongst the instruments which the Creator employs to effect his purposes, and such changes in the coast of any country as he wills shall take place.

They afford a beautiful instance of the gradual progress of Creative Wisdom from form to form. If the student of the tribe looks with inquiring eye at a collection of the *Patellidans*, or limpets, in the flattest and most depressed of them,† he will find no small resemblance to one of the valves of a bivalve shell; he will soon, however, discover a prominence in it, the first tendency towards the spiral convolution, a little removed from its centre, which will prove

\* *Patella*.

† *Umbrella indica*.