

because of their resemblance to the human nail;* in the Pholads this resemblance is very slight, but in the razor-shells and some tulip-shells it is much more striking. He also observes that the *Dactylus*, when replete with moisture, sparkles in the mouth of the eater, and that the falling drops also emit light.† If Pliny, in his account of this creature, was really speaking of the pholad, it is singular he should not mention its habit of boring rocks.

NOTE 24, p. 246.—*Their byssus has long been celebrated, for it is mentioned by Aristotle.* Aristotle's mode of expression is singular. Αἱ δὲ πινναὶ οὐδαὶ φουονται ἐκ τοῦ βυσσοῦ ἐν τοῖς ἀμμωδεσὶ καὶ βοβορωδεσίν. He says also, when they are deprived of the pinnophylax, they perish.‡ Pliny, who mostly copies Aristotle's account, does not notice the byssus.§

* Hist. Nat. l. ix. c. 61.

† His natura in tenebris remoto lumine, alio fulgere claro; et quanto magis humorem habeant, lucere in ore mandentium, lucere in manibus, atque etiam in solo et veste decidentibus guttis. Ibid.

‡ Hist. Anim. l. v. c. 16.

§ Hist. Nat. l. ix. c. 42.

END OF VOL. I.