

*Polypes*,\* not aware that the majority are evidently *fixed*, but Cuvier and most modern zoologists consider them, with more reason, as forming a family of the *Stelleridans*, from which the way to them is by the genus *Comatula*, remarkable for its jointed rays fringed on each side. The *Marsupites*, as Mr. Mantell, after Mr. Miller, has observed, form the link which connects the proper or pedunculated Crinoïdeans with the Stelleridans. If we compare them again with the class last described, the *Cirripedes*, especially the *Lepadites*, we shall find several points which they possess in common. In the first place, both sit upon a footstalk, though of a different structure and substance; the animal in both, in its principal seat, is protected by shelly pieces or valves; the head or mouth in both is surrounded by dichotomizing articulated organs, involuted, and often converging at the summit, and fringed on each side, in the Crinoïdeans, with a series of lesser digitations, and in the Cirripedes with a dense fringe of hairs. If the opinion of Mr. W. S. Mac Leay, stated above, that some of the *Echinoderms* exhibit an approximation to some of the *Cirripedes*, is correct, as it seems to be, the *Crinoïdeans*, though still far removed, would form one of the links that concatenate them; or if their connection is thought merely analogical, the *Balanites* would be the analogues of the *Echinidans* and of the sessile Crinoïdeans, and the *Lepadites* of the pedunculated ones.

The following characters distinguish the *Pentacrinites*, to which Tribe all the known recent species belong.

*Animal*, consisting of an angular flexible column, composed of numerous joints, articulating by means of cartilage, and perforated for the transmission of a siphon or intestinal canal, and sending forth at intervals, in whorls, several articulated cylindrical branches, curving into a hook at their summit; fixed at its base, and supporting at its free

\* Polypi natantes.