

tentacles, call them which we will, are not, as in the other species, divided into two fasciculi or bundles, the rays of which sit upon a common base; but form one glorious and radiant coronet, whose rays are beautifully annulated with red and white; there appears indeed to be a double circle or series of these rays, the interior ones shorter than the exterior; but there is not the least appearance of their division into *two* bunches, each forming a semicircle. The rays differ little from those of many of the polypes, except in being more numerous and longer, for the diameter of the circle, when the rays are all expanded, is nearly six inches, and it is not stated that the figure is magnified.

Whenever the animal is alarmed it withdraws this gorgeous apparatus of respirato-prehensory organs within its tube, and the tube itself into its burrow in the living rock, as a safe refuge from its enemies. Whoever compares the above figure of this expanded animal-blossom with the nectaries of some species of passion-flower, will be struck by the resemblance they exhibit to each other,* and by the analogy that evidently exists between them. As prehensory organs, the principal object of their unusual length and numbers may probably be their capturing, as in a net, a quantity of rock animals, or animalcules, sufficient for their support, and perhaps their very beauty may be a means of attraction, and bring them within their vortex.

With these splendid animals we bid farewell to those whose oral organs seem analogous to the blossoms of vegetables, and also to those in whom the organs of prehension and respiration are united; or in which the same organs collect food, and also act the part of gills.

Though tentacles are not henceforth employed in *respiration*, yet they still exist in several other classes of animals as exploratory, prehensory, and locomotive organs. But in

* See Linn. Trans. ii. t. iii. f. a. b.