

in sea water, and have observed them at all hours, without once detecting them in a voluntary emission of the flame. It proceeds solely from the polypes themselves, and can only be elicited by mechanical irritations, which have no sooner ceased than the phosphorescence declines and dies away.

“ Spangling the waves with lights as vain  
As pleasures in this vale of pain,  
That dazzle as they fade.”

*Sir W. Scott.*

### 13. VIRGULARIA,\* Lamarck.

CHARACTER.—*Polype-mass free, linear-elongate, “ supporting, towards the upper extremity, sessile lunate lobes embracing the stem obliquely, and bearing a row of cells on their margin.”*

1. V. MIRABILIS, *stem filiform, with alternate lobes transversely ridged.* Mr Simmons. †

#### PLATE XXIV.

*Pennatula mirabilis*, *Lin. Syst.* 1322. *Mull. Zool. Dan. prod.* 255, no. 3074.—*Zool. Dan. tab.* 11, fig. 1-3. *Ellis and Soland. Zooph.* 63. *Sowerby, Brit. Misc.* 51, pl. 25. *Turt. Brit. Faun.* 217. *Jameson in Wern. Mem.* i. 565. *Stew. Elem.* ii, 450. *Bosc, Vers.* iii. 62.—*Virgularia mirabilis*, *Lam. Anim. s. vert.* ii. 430, 2de edit. ii. 647. *Flem. Brit. Anim.* 507. *Grant in Edin. Journ. of Science*, no. 14. *Stark, Elem.* ii. 420.—*Scirpearia mirabilis*, *Templeton in Mag. Nat. Hist.* ix. 470.—*La Virgulaire à ailes laches*, *Blainv. Actinol.* 514, pl. 90, fig. 3.

*Hab.* Dredged up by Mr Simmons off Inch-Keith, *Sowerby*. *Prestonpans Bay, Jameson*. “ On the east and north coast of Scotland, where it is believed by the fishermen to have one end lodged erect in the mud; in Zetland it is called the Sea-rush,” *Fleming*. Dredged up in Belfast Lough, *Templeton*.

“ Seems to represent a quill stripped of its feathers. The base looks like a pen in this as in the other species, swelling a little from the end, and then tapering. The upper part is thicker, with alternate semicircular pectinated swellings, larger towards the middle, tapering upwards, and terminating in a thin bony substance, which passes through the whole.” *Sowerby*.—“ From 6 to 10 inches in length.” “ They perfectly correspond in form and external appearance with the elegant coloured figure given by Muller. Their *axis* is calcareous, solid, white, brittle, flexible, cylindrical, of equal

\* Formed from *Virgula*, the diminutive of *Virga*—a rod.

† “ A young man who has since fallen a sacrifice to his zeal for Natural History in the West Indies.”—*Leach*. He was, I believe, a native of Edinburgh.