

tain date even to the present day, their amazing labours have been continued, the product remaining in the extensive ranges of limestone rocks which lie buried in our northern regions, as well as in those islands of new formation with which they threaten to convert the equatorial seas into dry land. "They that sail on the sea tell of the danger thereof; and when we hear it with our ears we marvel thereat."*

"Millions of millions thus, from age to age,
 With simplest skill, and toil unweariable,
 No moment and no movement unimproved,
 Laid line on line, on terrace terrace spread,
 To swell the heightening, brightening gradual mound,
 By marvellous structure climbing tow'rd the day.
 Each wrought alone, yet all together wrought,
 Unconscious, not unworthy, instruments,
 By which a hand invisible was rearing
 A new creation in the secret deep.
 Omnipotence wrought in them, with them, by them;
 Hence what Omnipotence alone could do
 Worms did. I saw the living pile ascend,
 The mausoleum of its architects,
 Still dying upwards as their labours closed:
 Slime the material, but the slime was turn'd
 To adamant, by their petrific touch;
 Frail were their frames, ephemeral their lives,
 Their masonry imperishable." †

By much the greater number of those wonder-working zoophytes belong to this order. In former ages the geologist tells us that they were numerous and varied in our seas,—their remains, entombed in limestone and marble, constituting the models by which he decyphers their forms and species; but this ancient host is now represented by two or three species only, and these so small and rare, that it would be giving them a disproportionate importance to make them more than the subject of a passing allusion to the labours of their races.

The British species may be arranged under the following genera;

* Ecclesiast. chap. xliii. v. 24.

† Montgomery's Pelican Island, canto ii. p. 27.