shells, is inferred from their resemblance to the recent mollusca, whose habits are known; for the shells alone present no unequivocal marks, by which even the experienced conchologist can pronounce whether an extinct form belonged to a marine or to a fluviatile mollusk, although certain characters may admit of an approximative inference. Thus, for instance, as none of the known living fresh-water bivalves belong to the previous division, the *Monomyaria*, the presence in a stratum of numerous shells with but one muscular impression, would afford a fair presumption of the marine origin of such deposit. The remains with which the shells are associated, and the mineralogical characters of the strata in which they occur, would, of course, afford important corroborative evidence.*

The living fresh-water bivalves comprise but a few genera and species; and those which have been found fossil in the British strata belong to but four or five genera. Their distribution is restricted to strata of undoubted fluviatile origin, and to those local intercalations of fresh-water and land productions in marine deposits, which occur in some of the secondary, and in many of the tertiary formations.

UNIO. *Ly.* I. p. 62.—The river Mussels, or *Unionidæ*, have a solid, pearly shell, with two principal and two lateral teeth on the hinge; and their

* See Mr. Lyell on the distinction between fresh-water and marine deposits. Ly. I. p. 59.