

with the shell preserved are abundant; generally the outer opaque layer is wanting, or adheres to the matrix when a specimen is removed, leaving only the internal nacreous, or pearly coat. Folkstone, on the coast of Kent, is celebrated for examples of this kind, which may easily be collected from the Galt, which forms the base of the cliffs, at Eastware Bay. Watchett, in Somersetshire, is equally rich in the pearly Ammonites of the Lias; entire layers of these beautiful organic remains occur in the clay and shale.*

The shell of the Ammonite is generally thinner and more delicate than that of the Nautilus, and in some species much resembles the flexible covering of the Argonaut; possibly, in these species, the animal, like the recent Paper Nautilus, may have possessed a pair of arms terminating in broad membranous expansions, which secreted the shell, and generally remained in contact with it; otherwise it is difficult to explain how such delicate fabrics should have been uninjured. In other species the shell is thick and dense, as in the Ammonites of the Kimmeridge Clay near Aylesbury, in which one species (*Ammonites biplex*, *Min. Conch.* pl. 293.) in particular abounds, and is very generally invested with the shell, as perfect as if recent. The same

* A splendid group of these Ammonites has lately been purchased for the British Museum, and may be seen in the Gallery of Fossils.