

far from land, in the upper strata of the sea above them. Even in the seas that surround our own island, the Brachiopodous molluscs — terebratula and crania — have been found, ever since deep-sea dredging became common, to be not very rare shells ; and in the Mediterranean, where they are less rare still, fleets of Argonauts, the representatives of a highly organized family of the Cephalopods, to which it is now believed the Bellerophon of the Palæozoic rocks belonged, may be seen skimming along the surface, with sail and oar, high over the profound depths in which they lie. And, of course, when death comes, that comes to high and low, the remains of both Argonauts and Brachiopods must lie together at the bottom, in beds almost totally devoid of the intermediate forms.

Now, the author of the "Vestiges," in maintaining his hypothesis, suspends it on the handle furnished him by the immense abundance of the Silurian Brachiopods. The Silurian period, he says, exhibits "a scanty and most defective development of life ; so much so, that Mr. Lyell calls it, *par excellence*, the age of Brachiopods, with reference to the by no means exalted bivalve shell-fish which forms its predominant class. Such being the actual state of the case, I must persist in describing even the fauna of this age, which we now know was not the first, as, generally speaking, such a humble exhibition of the animal kingdom as we might expect, upon the development theory, to find at an early stage of the history of organization." The reader will at once discern the fallacy here. The Silurian period was peculiarly an age of Brachiopods, for in no other period were Brachiopods so numerous, specifically or individually, or of such size or importance ; whereas it was not *so peculiarly* an age of Cephalopods, for these we find introduced in still greater numbers during the Liasic and Oolitic periods. In 1848, when