

There is a general rudeness in the finish of the creature if I may so speak, that reminds one of the tattooings of a savage or the corresponding style of art in which he ornaments the handle of his stone-hatchet or his war-club. In the *Cheiracanthus*, on the contrary, there is much of a minute and cabinet-like elegance. The silvery smoothness of the fins, dotted with scarcely visible scales, harmonized with a similar appearance of head; a style of sculpture resembling the parallel etchings of the line-engraver fretted the scales the fins were small, and the contour elegant. I have already described the appearance of the unnamed fossils — the seeming shell-work that covered the sides of the one — its mast-like spines and sail-like fins; and the Gothic-like peculiarities that characterized the other — its rodded, obelisk-like spines, and the external framework of bone that stretched along its pectorals.

Till very lately, it was held that the Old Red Sandstone of Scotland contained no mollusca. It seemed difficult, however, to imagine a sea abounding in fish, and yet devoid of shells. In all my explorations, therefore, I had an eye to the discovery of the latter, and on two several occasions I disinterred what I supposed might have formed portions of a cardium or terebratula. On applying the glass, however, the punctulated character of the surface showed that the supposed shells were but parts of the concave helmet-like plate that covered the snout of the *Osteolepis*. In the ichthyolite beds of Cromarty and Ross, of Moray, Banff, Perth, Forfar, Fife, and Berwickshire, not a single shell has yet been found; but there have been discovered of late, in the upper beds of the Lower Old Red Sandstone in Orkney, the remains of a small, delicate oivalve, not yet described or figured but which very much resembles a *Venus*. (See Plate V., fig 7.) In the Tilestones