

*Isastrea* of Helmsdale, whose resemblance to *Isastrea oblonga* I have pointed out, I remarked that not a few of the larger specimens had been perforated, apparently in the recent state, by circular openings, resembling those made by our recent pholadæ, and which were usually filled up by a grayish-colored grit, identical with that which formed the uniting cement of the conglomerate in which the corals occurred. I at once attributed their formation to lithodomous shells of the Oolite, and ventured to describe, in the *Witness* for 1843, one of my first-found specimens as "a curious fragment of coral perforated by an ancient pholas." "The cavity," I continued in my description, "exactly resembles those cavities of the existing lithodomous shells which fretted so many of the calcareous masses that lay scattered on the beach on every side of the specimen; but it is shut firmly up by the coarse gritty sandstone in which the coral itself had lain buried; and a fragment of carbonized wood lies embedded in the entrance. The cave is curtained across by a wall of masonry immensely more ancient than that which converted into a prison the cave of the Seven Sleepers." Several years, however, elapsed from this time ere I succeeded in detecting the shells by which the cavities had been formed; and not until two years ago did I find specimens sufficiently entire to admit, and that still but imperfectly, of description. They seem to have been slim wedge-shaped bivalves, greatly resembling *modiola*, but belonging evidently to the genus *Lithodomus*. Sir Roderick Murchison, in his great work on the Geology of Russia, figures a *Lithodomus* of the Oolite of that country under the specific name *Lithodomus Eramanus*; but it is a greatly smaller shell than the Scotch one, measuring little more than a quarter of an inch in length; whereas the Helmsdale species measures, in my larger specimens, two inches and a line in length. The Russian species, however, in proportion to its general size, seems to have been a massier and broader shell.