

lowing year, Augustino Scilla, a Sicilian painter, published a Latin epistle, *De Corporibus Marinis Lapidescentibus*, illustrated by good engravings of fossil-shells, teeth, and corals.⁴ After another interval of speculative controversy, we come to Antonio Vallisneri, whose letters, *De' Corpi Marini che su' Monti si trovano*, appeared at Venice in 1721. In these letters he describes the fossils of Monte Bolca, and attempts to trace the extent of the marine deposits of Italy,⁵ and to distinguish the most important of the fossils. Similar descriptions and figures were published with reference to our own country at a later period. In 1766, Brander's *Fossilia Hantoniensia*, or Hampshire Fossils, appeared; containing excellent figures of fossil shells from a part of the south coast of England; and similar works came forth in other parts of Europe.

However exact might be the descriptions and figures thus produced, they could not give such complete information as the objects themselves, collected and permanently preserved in museums. Vallisneri says,⁶ that having begun to collect fossils for the purpose of forming a grotto, he selected the best, and preserved them "as a noble diversion for the more curious." The museum of Calceolarius at Verona contained a celebrated collection of such remains. A copious description of it appeared in 1622. Such collections had been made from an earlier period, and catalogues of them published. Thus Gessner's work, *De Rerum Fossilium, Lapidum et Gemmarum Figuris* (1565), contains a catalogue of the cabinet of petrifications collected by John Kentman; many catalogues of the same kind appeared in the seventeenth century.⁷ Lhwyd's *Lythophylaccii Britannici Iconographia*, published at Oxford in 1669, and exhibiting a very ample catalogue of English Fossils contained in the Ashmolean Museum, may be noticed as one of these.

One of the most remarkable occurrences in the progress of descriptive geology in England, was the formation of a geological museum by William Woodward as early as 1695. This collection, formed with great labor, systematically arranged, and carefully catalogued, he bequeathed to the University of Cambridge; founding and endowing

⁴ Augustine Scilla's original drawings of fossil shells, teeth, and corals, from which the engravings mentioned in the text were executed, as well as the natural objects from which the drawings were made, were bought by Woodward, and are now in the Woodwardian Museum at Cambridge.

⁵ p. 20.

⁶ p. 1.

⁷ Parkinson, *Organic Remains*, vol. i. p. 20.