

greatly did I admire its peculiar state of keeping. The smooth cylindrical hollow was partitioned across by two stony diaphragms, thin as bits of drawing-paper; for ere the absorbing process had begun, the fossil had been broken into three pieces by the superincumbent weight, and the minute strips of sand which had filled up the cracks had hardened into stone. The point was sharp and smooth; a rectilinear convex ridge showed the place of the abdominal groove; a cone at the base, lined transversely, represented the chambered shell of the interior. There could not be a more interesting specimen for a museum; but, alas! it occupied the polished plane of a tombstone, just where the *hic jacet* should have been; and though it symbolized the sentence wonderfully well, it was a symbol which I feared few would succeed in interpreting. I pointed it out to a brother workman. 'Ah,' said he, 'you have got one of these terrible tangle-holes; they're the dash'dest things in all the quarry.'

Many a curious thing besides does this quarry contain: boles of trees, that look as if sculptured in the white sandstone, with their gnarled and twisted knots and furrowed rinds; striated reeds of the same brittle material, that seem the fluted columns of architectural models; club-mosses, with their gracefully-disposed branches; rounded stems, scaled like the cones of the fir; impressions of fibrous, sword-shaped leaves, that resemble the leaves of the iris; and the casts of fragmentary masses of timber, deeply fretted by the involved and tortuous gnawings of some marine worm. Such are a few of the sculptured representations of the flora of the period,—things more delicate by a great deal than those carved flowers of Melrose which we find described with such picturesque effect by Sir Walter. And its fauna we see represented quite as interestingly as its flora. Its sculptured Pectens remind us of those of a Grecian frieze; a beautifully-ribbed Cardium has proved a