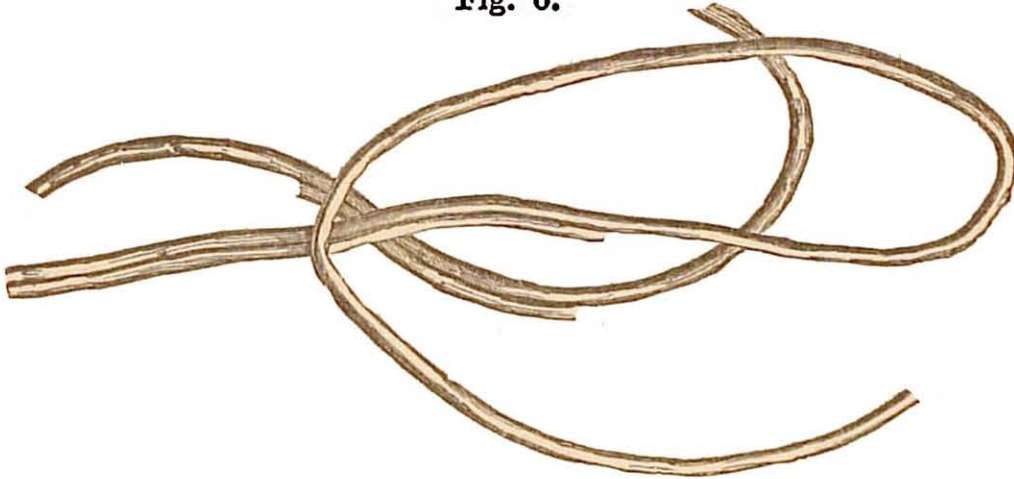


half-tide rocks and skerries of our coasts at the present time. We do detect, however, in some of these primordial fossils, at least a noticeable likeness to families familiar to the modern algæologist. The cord-like plant, *Chorda filum*, known to our children as "dead men's ropes," from its proving fatal at times to the too adventurous swimmer who gets entangled in its thick wreaths, had a Lower Silurian representative, known to the Palæontologist as the *Palæochorda*, or ancient chorda, which existed apparently in two species,—a larger

Fig. 6.



PALÆOCHORDA MINOR.
(One-half nat. size.)

and smaller. The still better known *Chondrus crispus*, the Irish-moss or carrageen of our cookery books, has likewise its apparent though more distant representative in *Chondritis*, a Lower Silurian alga, of which there seems to exist at least three species. The fucoids, or kelp-weeds, appear to have had also their representatives in such plants as *Fucoides gracilis* of the Lower Silurians of the Malverns; in short, the Thallogens of the first ages of vegetable life seem to have resembled, in the group, and in at least their more prominent features, the algæ of the existing time. And with the first indications of land we pass direct from the Thallogens to the Acrogens,—from the sea-weeds to the fern-allies. The Lycopodiaceæ, or club-mosses, bear in the axils of their leaves mi-