

and numerous crinoids, or stone-lilies, some of which consisted of but a sculptured calyx without petals, while others threw off a series of long flexible arms, that divided and subdivided like the branches of a tree, and were thickly fringed by hair-like fibres. There is great variety and beauty among these Silurian crinoids; and, from the ornate sculpture of their groined and ribbed *capitals* and slender *columns*, the Gothic architect might borrow not a few striking ideas.

The difference between the older and newer fashions, as exemplified in the cup-shaped corals, may be indicated in a single sentence. The ancient corals were stars of four rays, or of multiples of four; the modern corals are stars of six rays, or of multiples of six. But though, at a certain definite period—that during which the great Palæozoic division ended and the Secondary division began—nature, in forming this class of creatures, discarded the number four, and adopted instead the number six; the great leading idea of the star itself was equally retained in corals of the modern as in those of the more ancient type.

The articulata of the Silurian period bore a still more peculiar character. They consisted mainly of the Trilobites,—a family in whose nicely-jointed shells the armourer of the middle ages might have found almost all the contrivances of his craft anticipated, with not a few besides which he had

Fig. 46.



CYATHAXONIA DALMANI.

Fig. 47.



GLYPTOCRINUS DECACTYLUS.
(Hudson River Group,
Lower Silurian.)