

waifs has a different degree of convexity from the other (Fig. 2), while with mussels both valves are equally con-

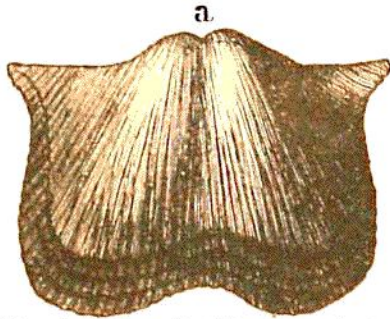


Fig. 1. Fossil bivalve from Trenton Falls; side view of ventral valve. a. The "beak."



Fig. 2. Edge view of the two valves, showing their unequal convexity and depth.

vex (Fig. 4). In fact, the more we study these things, the less they look like mussel-shells—the less they look like any thing else with which we are acquainted. I have

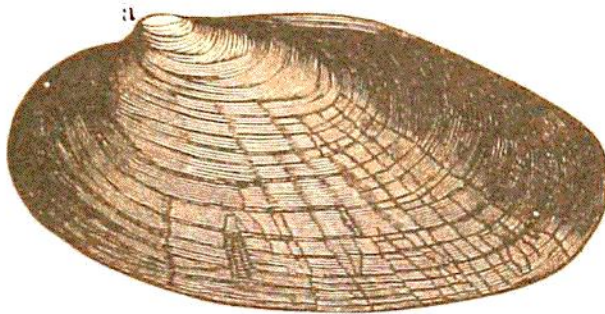


Fig. 3. Common River Mussel. View of left valve. a. The "beak."

heard men familiarly call these objects by the name of "clam-shells;" and others they call "snails;" and still other curious structures, frequently encountered in cultivated

fields, they designate as "petrified honey-comb" and "petrified wasps'-nests." But a few moments' careful observation suffices to show that these things differ materially from the objects whose names have been bestowed upon them.

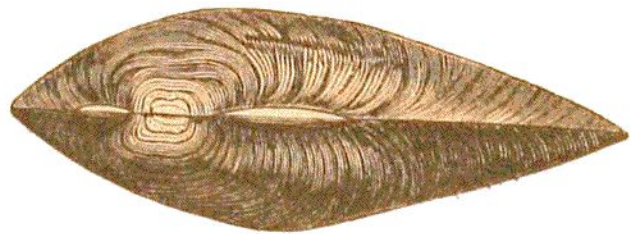


Fig. 4. View of "hinge line" of the same, showing the equal convexity of the two valves.

It seems unreasonable to suppose, therefore, that these shell-like forms have ever belonged to living animals. They are probably but "mere freaks of nature." Perhaps they have been produced by "the influences of the stars."