

The ocean Mab, the fairy of the sea
 Seems far less fragile, and alas! more free.
 He when the lightning-winged tornadoes sweep
 The surge, is safe—his port is in the deep
 And triumphs o'er armadas of mankind
 Which shake the world, yet crumble in the wind."

It was the Paper Nautilus—the *Argonauta Argo*—which from the time of Aristotle was believed to come to the surface and "spread to the wafting breeze a two-fold sail." Even this pretty fancy has been dispelled by truth-loving science. The Paper Nautilus, when it wishes to travel, simply folds its arms together, and from its funnel squirts a stream of water, like the most common squid, and makes "headway" back foremost. Our Pearly Nautilus is a relative of this; but he too, is no sailor. He can indeed float with all his tentacles outspread, but his normal place is on the bottom of the sea, and his normal gait is a sprawling crawl on a set of flexible, slippery tentacles, with mouth to the ground and back up.

This Nautilus is the representative of a venerable dynasty. The type is a survival from remote Palæozoic times. It perpetuates a plan of structure so ancient that the bricks of Assyria and the urns of buried Ilios are but memorials of yesterday. Its predecessors—nay, perhaps truly, its ancestors—may be found lying in the tombs which every age of the history of life and death has stocked with its memorials. The Chambered Shell lies imbedded with its contemporaries in strata of Carboniferous, Devonian, Silurian, and Cambrian age. We have turned over their remains in searching for the relics of those ages; but we have reserved to this time the mention of this diversified type. But let us first glance at the rocks which we are to explore.

We shall call them Silurian. Very commonly they are known as Upper Silurian. They lie many thousand feet down from the surface, in regions where the series of strata is complete. But, in other regions, they rise up to sunlight and atmosphere, with all their treasures of the ancient world embosomed in their solid mass. Here, also, is a great limestone