

fathoms, on the west side of Barbadoes, alive, and kept it alive for twenty-four hours, during which time the animal expanded and showed its remarkable peculiarities. It is unquestionably the type of a distinct family, entirely different from the other Mollusks with which it has been hitherto associated. Mr. Blake has made fine colored drawings of it, which may be published at some future time. . . . The family of the *Pleurotomariæ* numbers between four and five hundred fossil species, beginning in the Silurian deposits, but especially numerous in the carboniferous and jurassic formations.

The sponges afford another interesting case. When the first number of the great work of Goldfuss, on the fossils of Germany, made its appearance, about half a century ago, the most novel types it made known were several genera of sponges from the jurassic and cretaceous beds, described under the names of *Siphonia*, *Chemidium*, and *Scyphia*. Nothing of the kind has been known among the living to this day; and yet, the first haul of the dredge near Barbadoes gave us a *Chemidium*, or, at least, a sponge so much like the fossil *Chemidium*, that it must remain for future comparisons to determine whether there are