

held together by crystallized carbonate of lime; the cavities of the shells, and their interstices, being often filled with white calcareous spar. A polished slab, displaying sections of the enclosed shells, is figured, *Wond.* p. 379. Upon examining slices of this marble with the microscope, the cavities of the shells are found to contain myriads of the cases of Cyprides.\* The Wealden limestone of the Isle of Purbeck, known as Purbeck marble, is, in like manner, composed of Paludinæ, but of a much smaller species. Both these marbles were in great repute with the architects of the middle ages, and there are but few of our cathedrals and ancient churches which do not still contain examples, either in their columns, monuments, or pavements, of one or both varieties. The polished marble columns of Chichester Cathedral, and those of the Temple Church, in London, are of Purbeck marble; in other words, they are composed of the petrified shells of snails, that lived and died in a river, flowing through a country inhabited by the Iguanodon and other colossal reptiles, all of which have long since become extinct. With the exception of the *mussel-band* limestone of the Carboniferous system, previously described, these are the only British fresh-water marbles.† There are four species of

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\* For a particular account of this marble, see *Geol. S. E.* pp. 182—187.

† The collector may obtain specimens, and polished slabs, of these limestones, of Mr. Martin, mason, Lewes.