

vation, appearing as if the animals had been carefully embalmed in a soft paste, that had quickly consolidated around them, and preserved them without mutilation or blemish. In some examples, even the colour of the original remains. The specimens found in hard limestones, and coarse conglomerates, are generally mutilated, and as the under surface of the carapace, and the sternal plates to which the legs are attached, present more irregularity than the dorsal portion of the shell, they are firmly impacted in the stone, so as to render the development of some of the most important characters difficult, if not impossible. The antennæ and claws are often separated, or altogether wanting; the most common relics being the pincers, and the carapace, or united cephalo-thoracic segments. The substance of the shell, which in the recent state consists of phosphate and carbonate of lime, with gelatine or cartilage, is commonly a friable carbonate of lime, tinged with oxide of iron. These remarks apply more particularly to the crabs, lobsters, shrimps, prawns, &c. Numerous species of the smaller crustaceans, as the *Cypris*, and the extinct family of *Trilobites*, occur in myriads, and in some formations, are the principal constituent of deposits of great thickness and extent.

The remains of this class have been found throughout the vast series of the fossiliferous strata. Extinct forms appear in prodigious numbers in the most ancient formations, and are succeeded by