

amazing abundance in the littoral zone as to cover with a rough crust every minute portion of rock and every sedentary shell. Other species of the same genus (*B. crenatus* and *B. porcatus*) occupy the depths of the sea beyond ; and their remains, washed ashore by the waves, and mingled with those of the littoral species, form often great accumulations of shell-sand. I have seen among the Hebrides a shell-sand accumulated along the beach to the depth of many feet, of which fully two-thirds was composed of the valves and compartments of balanidæ ; and a similar sand on the east coast of Scotland, a little to the south of St Andrews, formed in still larger proportions of the fragments of a single species,—*Ba-*

Fig. 86.



BALANUS CRASSUS.  
(Red Crag.)

*lanus crenatus*. Now, this genus, so amazingly abundant at the present time in every existing sea, and whose accumulated remains bid fair to exist as great limestone rocks in the future, had no existence in the Palæozoic or Secondary ages. It first appears in the times of the earlier Tertiary, in, however, only a single species ; and, becoming gradually of more and more importance as a group, it receives its fullest numerical development in the present time. And thus the remains of a sub-class of animals, low in their standing among the articulata, may form one of the most prominent Palæontological features of the human period. But enough for the present of circumstance and detail.

Such, so far as the geologist has yet been able to read the records of his science, has been the course of creation, from the first beginnings of vitality upon our planet, until the appearance of man. And very wonderful, surely, has that course been ! How strange a procession ! Never yet on Egyptian obelisk or Assyrian frieze,—where long lines of figures seem stalking across the granite, each charged with symbol and mystery,—have our Layards or Rawlinsons seen