

Mississippi, flourished on the great submarine plateau luxuriant plantations of these little lily-animals. And these were interspersed with other plant-like forms—the coral animals—which reared their marble domes and uplifted their arborescent structures upon the same soil which supported the encrinite and formed the grazing-ground of tribes of molluscos beings.

“ Deep in the wave is a coral grove,
Where the purple mullet and goldfish rove ;
Where the sea-flower spreads its leaves of blue,
That never are wet with falling dew,
But in bright and changeful beauty shine,
Far down in the green and grassy brine.
The floor is of sand, like the mountain drift,
And the pearl-shells spangle the flinty snow ;
From coral rocks the sea-plants lift
Their boughs where the tides and billows flow ;
* * * * *
While far below in the peaceful sea
The purple mullet and goldfish rove,
Where the waters murmur tranquilly
Through the bending twigs of the coral grove.”

Here was beauty, here was sensitive enjoyment, lavished by Nature upon these humble forms at this remote age of

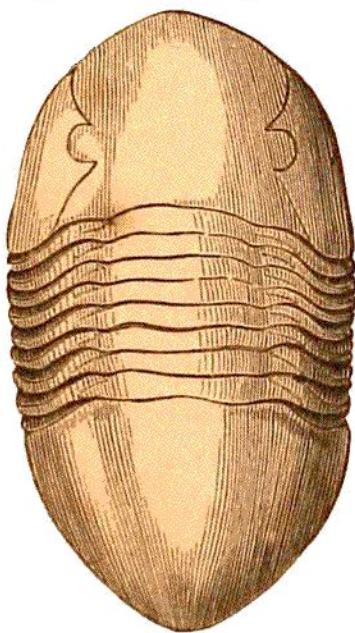


Fig. 41. *Asaphus gigas* of the Trenton period.

the world, and in these “dark, unfathomed caves of ocean,” with the same liberal hand which adorns the modern landscape for the admiration of intelligent man. Here again were trilobites—not the same species as had been swept from being by the convulsions which marked the close of the last epoch—but articulated animals, conformed to the same family plan and features as their extinct predecessors, yet as easily distinguished as a wasp from a bumble-bee. And what, still,