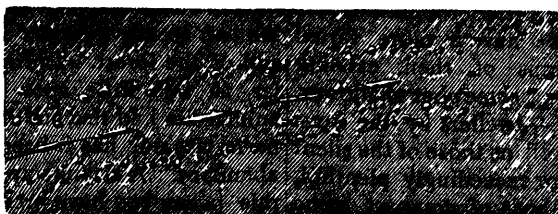
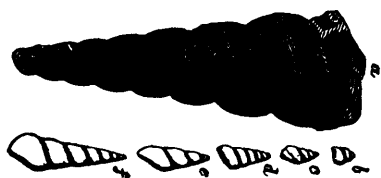


prints are extant, has truly made his little life sublime. Yet it was in death; for the receding waves that left him high and dry, away from his native element, did not return in time to save him from a heated,



(Fig. 4.) First footprints,—*Protichnites octonotatus*.

sandy grave. In struggling for life, towards the ocean, over that ancient sea beach, it has left its footprints on what have really become sands of time. While its sands ran out in the effort, it has left a far more enduring impression on them than he who in his march through life leaves death and desolation in his wake, or than those who stalk along in all the pride and grandeur of self-conceit. Another fact that may be learned from these markings, is that the tide then ebbed and flowed as now, and that it will so continue until there shall be "no more sea." This shows us that the same laws then governed the elements, and that they exercised the same influences in the earth. The period has been designated the *Potsdam*, on account of the rocks having been first observed at Potsdam in New York. In some places this sandstone, being spread out in even layers of a thickness suitable for pavements, is quarried and extensively used for that purpose. Thus has this ancient sea-beach, which received the first footprints of worms and trilobites in the hoary past, to bear, in "these last days," the heavy tread of the thousands of busy, hurrying feet of a great city.

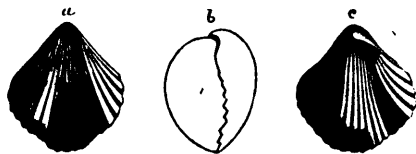


(Fig. 5.)—*Murchisonia Anna*.

Turning to the next page we have what is called the *Calciferos*; that is a sandy limestone. It is a transition period from the previous shallow sandy to the succeeding deep sea deposit of limestone.

Of the animals of the time a shell named *Murchisonia*, after the celebrated geologist, is most abundant. Specimens are found in great numbers in the rocks of this formation, occurring near St. Ann's.

Continuing on, we find next the *Chazy*, so designated from immense masses of rocks of the period being exposed, near the village of that name, on Lake Champlain. Here we have evidence of a deep sea surging over, where now stands our island home. Deeper, probably, was it than ever before or after; and yet in those profound depths animal life flourished—yes, and flourished abundantly. One form especially, *Rhynchonella*, meaning



(Fig. 6.)—*Rhynchonella plena*.

the little beak, so teemed, that great beds of rocks, sometimes hundreds of feet in thickness, are made up almost entirely of its shells. This rock extends from the Back River three quarters of the distance across the island. Quarries were opened in this formation, and stones taken from them were formerly used in building; but, while more difficult to work, it is not so durable as that at present in use. Nor is the color so pleasing to the eye; for, in a year or two, it weathers to a dingy drab. Houses, and they are the older ones, built from it may be distinguished by