species like individuals may have had the cause of their death inherent in their original constitution, independently of changes in the external world, and that the term of their existence, or the period of exhaustion of the prolific force, may have been ordained from the commencement of each species.

ARTICLE LV.—*On the Genus Tellinomya, and allied Genera*, with Illustrations, by Professor JAMES HALL, Palæontologist to the State of New York; written for the CANADIAN NATURALIST AND GEOLOGIST.

In the investigations of Palæozoic fossils, it often happens that the most important parts for the determination of the generic characters are obscured or entirely hidden by the adhering stony matter. This is particularly true of the Gasteropoda and Lamelli branchiata, and the generic characters are often necessarily derived from the external features of the shell. It is not always possible to make these determinations with such accuracy, that further discoveries will not show the necessity of some modification. Were the descriptions of the genera and species of the Lamelli branchiate, shells of the Palæozoic rocks, left until the hinge and teeth, the pallial and muscular impressions, could be determined, comparatively few would be described.

In the first volume of the Palæontology of New York several new genera were proposed, and among them the genus Tellinomya, which is the subject of the present notice. This genus was constituted to include several species, supposed to be related to each other from external characters. These characters were suggestive of *Tellina* and of *Mya*, and the name adopted accordingly.

In the specimens known to me at that time there were no visible teeth or crenulations in the hinge line, and this fact was stated in the description. Subsequently I obtained some specimens which suggested other relations than those indicated by the generic name. No opportunity has occurred of correcting the original description, while in the meantime the species have been referred by Palæontologists to other genera, and in some instances to those of very different character.*

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* M. d'Orbigny refers the species of Tellinomya described in the first volume of the Palæontology of New York to the genus Lyonsia of Turton, a modern shell belonging to a very different family; and to add still more