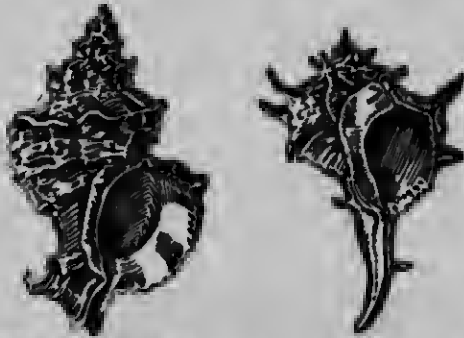


Phœnicians was a form of nature worship quite similar to that of the Babylonians. Their architecture was, in its main features, modelled upon that of the Egyptians. In their mechanic arts they also showed the same refined skill as their older neighbours. The Phœnicians were distinguished for their glass and metal work, their pottery, their textile fabrics, and especially for their purple dyes, which they obtained from a sea snail that was found along the Mediterranean coasts.

Phœnician Commerce.—The great distinction of this people was their genius for trade and commerce. Upon the sea the Phœnicians established an empire perhaps equal in importance to that which any other Oriental people had established upon the land.



SHELLS OF THE SEA SNAIL FROM WHICH
THE PURPLE DYE WAS MADE

The cedars of Lebanon furnished timber for their ships; and with these they became the first masters of the Mediterranean, and the greatest commercial nation of ancient times. Their fleets established the first commercial intercourse between Europe, Asia and

Africa. They not only exported their own products to other countries, but they became the common carriers for the known world. From India they brought ivory, jewels, spices, and scented wood. From Arabia they brought gold, precious stones, incense, and myrrh. From the coasts of Ethiopia they added to their cargoes of gold and ivory supplies of ebony and ostrich feathers. They brought from the shores of the Baltic yellow amber; from Spain silver, iron, lead, and copper; from Africa the precious metals; and from Britain tin. Thus the different parts of the world were brought into relation with one another by the Phœnician mariners and merchants.

Phœnician Colonies.—To aid in extending their commerce