

work which will be frequently referred to hereafter, upon 'The Atlantic Sea-bed.'¹ He warmly advocated the view that the conditions of the bottom of the sea were not such as to preclude the possibility of the existence of even the higher forms of animal life, and discussed fully and with great ability the arguments which had been advanced on the other side. The first part only of Dr. Wallich's book appeared, in a somewhat costly and cumbrous form, and it scarcely came into the hands of working naturalists, or received the attention which it deserved. At the time, however, it was merely an expression of individual opinion, for no new facts had been elicited. Star-fishes had come up on several previous occasions adhering to sounding-lines, but the absolute proof was still wanting that they had lived upon the ground at the depth of the sounding. Dr. Wallich referred the star-fishes procured to a well-known littoral species, and complicated their history somewhat irrelevantly with the disappearance of the 'Land of Buss.' Fortunately the artistic if not very satisfactory figure which he gives of a star-fish clinging to the line does not bear out his determination either in appearance or attitude, but suggests one or other of two species which we now know to be excessively abundant in deep water in the North Atlantic, *Ophiopholis aculeata*, O. F. MÜLLER, or *Ophiacantha spinulosa*, MÜLLER and TROSCHEL.

¹ The North Atlantic Sea-bed: comprising a Diary of the Voyage on board H.M.S. 'Bulldog,' in 1860; and Observations on the presence of Animal Life, and the Formation and Nature of Organic Deposits at great Depths in the Ocean. By G. C. Wallich, M.D., F.L.S., F.G.S., &c. Published with the sanction of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty. London, 1862.