

MARRELLA

On Burgess mud *Marrella* crept
 'Til o'er the edge one day was swept
A tumbling, roiling turbidity flow
 Down Cathedral's slope to the depths below
Where it swirled and entombed in mud and ooze
 And doomed *Marrella* to a geologic snooze.

Millions of years went by so slowly
 As *Marrella* slept in her bed so lowly.
Compacted and hardened and lithified,
 Marrella was ready for a tectonic ride.
As Canadian Rockies thrust out of the Earth,
 Our pretty *Marrella* experienced rebirth.

A half billion years had finally gone by
 Before she caught a paleontologist's eye.
Collected, cleaned up and thoroughly inspected,
 Marrella's phylum was finally detected.
In the end we give thanks to weathering and erosion
 That *Marrella* elucidates the Cambrian Explosion!

R. Finch 2016