

means afforded us of ascertaining whether the fossil bones belong to one of them, or if they formed a part of a species now extinct. As we are, on the contrary, very far from knowing all the marine testacea and sea fish; as we are probably ignorant yet of the greater part which are in the depths of the ocean, it is impossible to know with certainty if a species found fossilized be or be not extinct. Thus we observe learned men obstinately bent on giving the name of pelagian shells, that is, shells of the deep sea, to belemnites, to cornua-amonis, and other shelly relics, which have as yet only been observed in ancient layers; meaning by that, that if they have not been yet found in a living state, it is because they inhabit depths beyond the reach of our nets.

Certainly naturalists have not yet traversed every continent, and do not even know all the quadrupeds which inhabit the countries over which they have travelled. New species of this class are from time to time discovered; and those who have not attentively examined all the circumstances of these discoveries, might believe also that the unknown quadrupeds whose bones are found in our layers have remained concealed to the present time in some islands not yet discovered, or in some of the vast deserts which occupy the middle of Asia, Africa, the two Americas, and New Holland.

LITTLE PROBABILITY OF FINDING NEW SPECIES OF GREAT QUADRUPEDS.

However, if we examine what species of quadrupeds have been recently found, and in what circum-