

with crocodiles and tortoises; but the genera of extinct mammifera, which are deposited in the gypsum, are not there to be found. They did not as yet exist in that country when these clays and lignites were formed.

This fresh water formation, the most ancient that has been with certainty detected in our neighbourhood, and which supports all the formations which we have just enumerated, is itself supported and environed entirely by chalk, a formation, vast from its thickness and by its extent, which shows itself in very distant countries, such as Pomerania and Poland; but which, in our environs, pervades with a sort of continuity Berri, Champagne, Picardy, Upper Normandy and a part of England, and also forms a great circle, or rather basin, in which the formations of which we have been speaking are contained, but the borders of which they also cover in those places where they were less elevated.

In fact, it is not in our basin alone that these kinds of formations are deposited. In other countries, where the surface of the chalk offered similar cavities; in those even where there was no chalk, and where the most ancient formations alone offered themselves as supporters, circumstances often brought deposits more or less like our own, and containing similar organic bodies.

Our fresh water shell formations of the second stage have been found in England, Spain, and even to the confines of Poland.

The marine shells placed between them have been discovered along the whole chain of the Appenines.

Some of the quadrupeds of our gypsum deposits, the palæotheria for instance, have also left some of the remains in the gypseous formations of Velay, and in the molasse quarries of the south of France.