

Thus the partial revolutions which took place in our environs, between the epoch of the chalk and that of the general deluge, and during which the sea was thrown upon our districts or retired from them, occurred also in a multitude of other countries. The globe underwent a long series of variations and changes, probably very rapid, since the deposits they have left no where show much thickness or solidity. The chalk was produced by a sea more tranquil and uninterrupted; it contains only marine productions, amongst which there are however *some* vertebrated animals of most peculiar kinds; but the *whole* class of reptiles and fishes; great tortoises, enormous lizards, and similar animals.

The formations previous to the chalk, and in the hollow of which it is deposited, as the layers of our neighbourhood are, form a great part of Germany and England; and the efforts recently made by the learned of these two countries, similar to ours, and by employing the same principles, united to those which had been previously tried by the school of Werner, will soon leave nothing to be desired in addition to our knowledge of them. MM. Humboldt and de Bonnard in France and Germany; Messrs. Buckland and Conybeare in England, have given us the most perfect and complete tables of them.

The table annexed, which was kindly drawn out for me by M. de Humboldt, to adorn my work, not only has the secondary formations, but the whole series of strata arranged, from the most ancient that are known, to the most recent and superficial. It is in a manner the summary of the labours of all geologists.