

but yet these historians, in composing their romances, availed themselves of their acquaintance with subsequent facts, while the geologists alluded to entirely neglected the posterior occurrences which alone could cast any light on the obscurity of former times.

In conclusion, it only remains for me to present the result of my individual researches, or in other words the summary of my great work. I shall enumerate the animals that I have discovered, in an order the reverse of that which I have followed in enumerating the formations. By going deeper and deeper into the series of layers, I got more and more remote as to the epochs of time. I shall now commence with the most ancient formations, and mention the animals found in them, and passing from epoch to epoch, point out those which successively present themselves, in proportion as they approach more nearly to the present age.

ENUMERATION OF THE FOSSIL ANIMALS DETECTED BY THE AUTHOR.

We have seen that zoophytes, mollusca, and certain crustacea begin to appear in the transition formations; there may be even at that period bones and skeletons of fishes; but they are at a very considerable distance from the epoch in which we discover the remains of animals which live on the earth and breathe the air of nature.

The vast beds of coal, and the trunks of palms and ferns of which they retain the impressions, although already evidencing dry lands, and a vegetation thereon, do not yet show any bones of quadrupeds, nor even of oviparous quadrupeds.