

To the same epoch I attribute our gypsum beds and those of Aix, many of the quarries of marly stones and the molassic sand-stones, at least those of the south of France. I am also disposed to assign to the same period portions of the molasses of Switzerland, and the lignites of Liguria and Alsace, in which are found quadrupeds of the families above described; but I do not learn that any of these animals are found in other countries. The fossil bones of Germany, England, and Italy, are all either older or more recent than those we have enumerated, and belong either to that ancient race of reptiles of the Juraic and copper-slate formations, or to the deposits of the last general deluge,—the diluvial layers.

We may then believe, as there is no proof of the contrary, that at the epoch when these numerous pachydermata existed, the globe only afforded them, as habitations, a small number of tolerably fertile plains, wherein they could multiply; and perhaps these plains were insulated regions, separated by considerable spaces of lofty chains, where we do not find that our animals have left any vestiges of their existence.

We have, through the researches of M. Adolphe Brongniart, become acquainted with the nature of the vegetables which covered these few countries. In the same layers with our palæotheria are collected trunks of palm trees, and many other beautiful plants whose genus is now only to be found in hot climates; palm trees, crocodiles, and trionyces are always found in greater or lesser numbers wherever the ancient pachydermata are discovered. (1)

But the sea, which had covered these countries

(1) Recherches, vol. iii. pp. 351, et seq.