

that the great blocks of the Alps and Scandinavia were floated away on icebergs, and so dropped on the sea bed or on the temporarily submerged land. That icebergs are detached from the land with stones on their surface is known to northern navigators ; it is a phenomenon well understood in the Gulf of Bothnia ; and, to an imaginative mind, the *mer de glace*, with its border of moraine, might seem a natural component of such a glacier current as that to which the Salève, the Jura, and the borders of the Lake of Geneva are supposed in this hypothesis to owe their accumulated blocks. It is thought to be a plausible argument in favour of this speculation, that the blocks of granite, porphyry, limestone, &c. are grouped together in distinct patches *according to their local origin*, both in the vicinity of the Alps and on the plains of northern Germany.*

OSSIFEROUS GRAVEL, PEBBLY CLAY, SAND, ETC.

While a few remarkable cases of dispersed boulders have engaged the attention of geologists following in the track of Saussure and De Luc, thousands of examples offered themselves of accumulations similarly at variance with the existing agencies of water ; but they were never accurately studied till they acquired a new interest from the discussions of De Luc and the splendid researches of Cuvier into the bones of quadrupeds which lie abundantly in these deposits. Large portions of England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland are covered by irregular aggregations of gravelly sands and pebbly clays, locally stored with the bones of various land quadrupeds, which appear to have lived not far from the spots where they now occur buried. The parts where they occur were therefore dry land, or, at least, not far removed from the native haunts of the animals.

The pebbles constitute the essential and characteristic part of these deposits, and enable the geologist to decide,

* See Mr. Lyell's *Geology*, Brongniart, *Tableau des Terrains* ; De Luc's *Letters*, &c.