

of the rivers of this country, we find the bones and antlers of the deer, horse, and other domesticated animals, with the trunks and branches of trees and plants of our island, river and land shells, human bones, fragments of pottery and other works of art: while in those of the Ganges and the Nile, the remains of the animals and vegetables of India and of Egypt are respectively entombed.

31. FORMATION OF STRATA. — There is one circumstance connected with these facts which it will be necessary here to consider. The quantity of water in streams and rivers varies considerably at different periods of the year; in the rainy season the rivers are overflowing, and the waters remarkably turbid: the depositions, therefore, must be much greater at those periods than in the summer months, when the streams are feeble, and the rivers shallow. In that part of the river affected by the tides, there is also a constant flux and reflux of the waters, and from these causes the depositions must, to a certain degree, be periodical. Accordingly we find them disposed in *strata* or layers, from the partial consolidation of the surface of one bed of mud, before the superincumbent layer was precipitated upon it. Thus wherever a fresh break takes place in a bank of consolidated mud, in the delta of the Nile, it is easy to trace the deposits of each successive year, by means of the lighter earth on the top of each. When a portion is taken into the hand, it separates into layers; and on closely