

“ To them the love of woman hath gone down,—
Dark flow their tides o’er manhood’s noble head,
O’er youth’s bright locks, and beauty’s flowery crown.”—

Yes ! in these modern depositions, the remains of man, and of his works, must of necessity be continually engulfed, together with those of the animals which are his contemporaries.

Of the nature of the bed of the ocean, we can of course know but little from actual observation. Soundings, however, have thrown light upon the deposits now forming in those depths, which are accessible to this mode of investigation ; and thus we learn, that in many parts immense accumulations of the remains of testaceous animals, intermixed with sand, gravel, and mud, are going on. Donati ascertained the existence of a compact bed of shells, 100 feet in thickness, at the bottom of the Adriatic, which in some parts was converted into marble. In the British Channel, extensive banks of sand, imbedding the remains of shells, crustacea, &c. are in the progress of formation. This specimen, which was dredged up a few miles from land, off Brighton, is an aggregation of sand with recent marine shells, oysters, muscles, limpets, cockles, &c. and minute corallines ; and this example, from off the Isle of Sheppey, consists entirely of cockles (*Cardium edule*), held together by conglomerated sand. In bays and creeks, bounded by granitic rocks, the bottom is found to be composed of micaceous and quartzose sand, consolidated into what may be