

and sand; the cementing material having been derived from the oxidation of the blades. In the bed of the Thames, large masses of a ferruginous conglomerate are occasionally found, in which Roman coins, and fragments of pottery, are imbedded; the stone being formed of sand and clay impregnated and consolidated by ferruginous infiltration.

These specimens of oxide of iron were dug up in a marshy soil, near Bolney, in Sussex, and are of the same nature as the substance called bog-iron ore, which so frequently occurs in peat. The ebony colour of the woods from Ireland, which we have already examined, has been derived from an impregnation of iron. Specimens of bog-iron are not uncommon in the superficial loam and gravel of the south-east of England.

The consolidation of sand and other loose materials by these agencies, is taking place everywhere; on the shores of the Mediterranean; on the coasts of the West India Islands, and of the Isle of Ascension; and on the borders of the United States; thus the remains of man, at Guadaloupe—of turtles, in the Isle of Ascension—of recent shells, and bones of ruminants, at Nice—of ancient pottery in Greece—and of animal and vegetable substances, in our own country, have become imbedded and preserved.

I now proceed to notice a few instances of these interesting and important operations, by which