

less broken; and of sand of similar materials; they also contain pebbles of trachytic and glassy lava. The shores of this island are a favourite resort of turtles, which repair thither in immense numbers, and deposit their eggs in the loose sand: the rapid conversion of the coarse, calcareous banks into solid stone, occasions the frequent imbedding, and preservation of the eggs; and there are specimens in the cabinet of the Geological Society, in which the bones of young turtles, just on the point of being hatched, are well preserved.* The conglomerate of the Isle of Ascension is, as you may observe, principally composed of corals. Here we have another example of a rock formed of the calcareous skeletons of those wonderful forms of organic existence. It is not my intention in this place to dwell on the geological changes produced by recent zoophytes, in the formation of coral reefs, &c., as the examination of the recent, and fossil corals, will form the subject of a subsequent lecture.

55. DRIFTED SAND.—We have already briefly alluded to the encroachments on the land by the drifting of sand-banks, thrown up beyond the reach of the tide, and driven by the winds inland; thus effecting the desolation of whole regions by their slow, but certain progress. Egypt instantly presents herself to the imagination, with her stupendous pyramids, the sepulchres of a mighty race of monarchs, and the wonder of the world—her temples,

* See Lyell's Principles of Geology, 5th edit. vol. iii. p. 269.