

main land at no remote geological period, by subsidences commensurate with the elevation of which Ireland affords such decisive evidence.*

In the remarkable examples just cited, we have an interesting transition from the recent to the lost types of animal existence. 1st, Species extinct in the British islands, but still living in other countries. 2dly, Animals which have been entirely destroyed within the last few centuries. Lastly, Species that were blotted out from the face of the earth by the early races of mankind.

7. EPOCH OF TERRESTRIAL MAMMALIA.—We must now advance another step in the history of the past, and proceed from the consideration of what is known, to that which is unknown; the subsequent divisions of this discourse will be restricted to the geological phenomena of the period immediately antecedent to the present; a period in which the earth appears to have teemed with enormous mammalia, and with which but few species of the existing races were associated. Thus while the present may be termed the *modern* or *human epoch*, that which forms the immediate subject of our investigation may be designated the *epoch of gigantic mammalia*.

8. CHARACTER OF THE ANCIENT ALLUVIAL DEPOSITS.—“When the traveller,” says Cuvier, “passes over those fertile plains, where the peaceful

* Address of Charles Lyell, Esq. President of the Geological Society of London, 1837.