

appearance of the recent skeleton; but those which occur in the superficial gravel, and in caverns, are commonly of a porous and earthy character, like bones that have lost a portion of their animal matter by being buried in a dry and loose soil.

The animals whose fossil remains I now proceed to describe, may be separated into two classes—the *HERBIVORA*, whose bones occur in the gravel and marl,—and the *CARNIVORA*, which are found in fissures and caverns.

17. FOSSIL ELEPHANTS, OR MAMMOTHS.*—I will first notice the fossil remains of the animals of the elephantine family, which occur in great abundance, and are very generally distributed. In the earlier ages, these colossal bones were supposed to belong to gigantic races of mankind, and hence the tradition of giants possessed by every country in Europe: nor need we smile at the ignorance and credulity of our ancestors, for, not many years since, a fossil tooth of an elephant, which was discovered in digging a well in Brighton, was supposed to be a petrified cauliflower!—In Russia, and more particularly in Siberia, the fossil bones of elephants are found throughout all the low lands, and in the sandy plains, but not in the elevated primary chain of hills, stretching from the borders of Europe to the nearest extreme point of America, and south and north from the base of the mountains of central Asia, to the shores of the Arctic sea.

* From the Arabic *behemoth*, signifying *elephant*.