

occurrence of these isolated, yet analogous phenomena, which surround the great basin of the Mediterranean—rocks of a uniform character, fissured and broken, their rents filled up with similar materials, and with the remains of the same species of animals. The occurrence of species, either extinct, or no longer inhabiting the same latitudes (as the *lagomys*), refers the period of the existence of these animals to the epoch of the mammoths and mastodons; and the absence of marine remains, and of the usual abrading effects of water, show that the breccia was formed on dry land, and not beneath the sea.

The rational explanation of these facts appears to be that which assumes the original union of these distant rocks and islands into a continent, or large island, which, like Calabria, was subject to repeated visitations of earthquakes; and that the animals which inhabited the country fell into the fissures thus produced, and were preserved by the calcareous infiltrations that were constantly in progress. Subsequent convulsions severed the country into rocks and insular masses, of which catastrophe the osseous conglomerates are the physical and only record.

36. OSSEOUS BRECCIA OF AUSTRALIA.—Caves and fissures, filled with osseous breccia, in the same manner with those I have described, have also been discovered in New Holland, to the westward of Sydney, near the banks of the Macquarrie river;