

deposits possessing the characters here defined occur near Bordeaux and Montpellier; and in Piedmont, Styria, Hungary, and other parts of the European continent; but in many instances the strata seem to merge into one or other term of the series. I proceed therefore to the consideration of the *Eocene*, or those tertiary strata which are of the highest antiquity, and are found deposited in basins or depressions of the chalk, where that formation constitutes the fundamental rock of the country. Every step of our progress will now be replete with the deepest interest, and new and singular forms of being will appear before us. I shall pass rapidly over the stratigraphical character of these rocks, that our attention may be more fully directed to the extraordinary organic remains which they inclose.

16. LOWER TERTIARY, OR EOCENE DEPOSITS.— I propose, in the first place, to describe the geographical distribution and general characters of a few principal groups of the older tertiary strata; secondly, to investigate the nature of the more remarkable fossil animals and plants; and lastly, to survey those regions of central France, of the Rhine, and of South America, which have been the scenes of active volcanoes during the tertiary epoch.

It may be regarded as a singular coincidence, that the capitals of Great Britain and France are located on strata of the same geological epoch. Paris is situated on a vast alternation of marine