

carried through a part of the same ridge of clay at Primrose Hill, in the line of the Birmingham railroad; and the explorations, by wells, over the whole area around London, have brought to light such prodigious quantities of organic remains, that the fossils of this deposit are almost universally known. The admirable work of the late Mr. Sowerby, called early attention to these testaceous remains, the first plate in his *Mineral Conchology* being devoted to the "Nautili of the London Basin." Immense numbers of marine shells of extinct species; crabs, lobsters, and other crustacea; teeth of sharks, and remains of many genera of fishes; bones of crocodiles and turtles; leaves, fruits, stems of plants, and rolled trunks of trees, perforated by boring shells,—occur throughout these strata, but are located in greater abundance in some spots than in others. The clay and gravel pits at Woolwich, on the banks of the Thames, abound in univalve shells; and at Plumstead, Bexley, and other places, marine bivalve shells occur in clay, and in indurated argillaceous limestone.

19. THE ISLE OF SHEPPEY.—The Isle of Sheppey is entirely composed of the London clay, and the thickness of the beds is upwards of 550 feet. It has long been celebrated for its organic remains; and I may observe, that the discovery of seed-vessels and stems of plants in pyritous clay, in a visit which I made to Queenborough, when a youth, tended to confirm my early taste for geological researches.