

in profusion; and Hordwell Cliff, in Hampshire, has so long been celebrated for similar productions, that its elegant shells are seen in almost every collection of organic remains. In all these localities the shells are of the same genera and species with those of the contemporaneous deposits of France.

26. FRESH-WATER STRATA OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT.—The great peculiarity and interest of the Isle of Wight basin, as compared with that of London, consists in the existence of strata containing almost exclusively fresh-water shells and remains of the same kind of animals as those which occur in the vicinity of Paris. Mr. Webster arranged the tertiary beds of Hampshire, in the following manner:—1st. *Lowermost*; Plastic clay and sand. 2d. London clay. 3d. Fresh-water deposits,—sandy calcareous marls, with immense quantities of fresh-water shells. 4th. Clay and marl, abounding in marine shells; very generally of different species from those of the London clay. 5th. Upper fresh-water deposit; yellowish white marl, and calcareous limestone, employed for building; nearly sixty feet in thickness, and almost one entire mass of fresh-water shells.

Subsequent observations have shown that the above subdivisions have been made from too partial a view of the phenomena, and that the entire suite of deposits must be regarded as a fresh-water formation, into which there have been occasional irruptions of the sea.