

turtles are daily in the course of fossilization on the shores of the Isle of Ascension.

§ 33. FOSSIL ANIMALS OF PARIS.— We have next to consider the fossil remains of the mammalia whose skeletons were entombed in the mud of the waters which formerly occupied the area of Paris, and which the genius of Cuvier has again, as it were, called into existence. The forms of these extinct creatures are now as familiar to us as our domestic animals, and even the names of *palæotheria* and *anoplotheria* are almost become household words. The gypsum quarries which are spread over the flanks of Montmartre have long been known to afford fossil bones; but, although specimens occasionally attracted the notice of the naturalists of Paris, and collections were formed, yet no one appears to have suspected the mine of wonders which the rocks contained, till the curiosity of Cuvier was awakened by the inspection of a large collection of these bones, after he had successfully applied the laws of comparative anatomy to the investigation of the fossil elephants and mammoths. He had previously paid little or no attention to the partial accounts of fossil bones found in the vicinity of Paris, although in 1768, Guettard had figured and described many bones and teeth. Cuvier now, however, perceived that a new world was open to his researches, and he soon, by zeal and energy, obtained an extensive collection, and found himself (to use his own expression) in a charnel-house, surrounded by a confused