

Mr. Lyell observes, "that this tertiary series differs essentially from that of the London and Paris basins. The great development of regular beds of blue limestone and shale, the quality and appearance of the coal, and the thickness of the compact grey, brown, and black argillaceous limestones and sandstones, give them the aspect of the most ancient of our secondary rocks; and it is only by the peculiar species of fluviatile and lacustrine shells, the seed-vessels of the *charæ*, &c. that the comparatively recent date of the whole group is demonstrated."

38. LACUSTRINE FORMATION OF CENINGEN.—Among the tertiary lacustrine formations on the continent, there is one so much celebrated for its organic remains, that I will offer a few remarks on its peculiar characters. Ceningen, near Constance, has for centuries been known to contain fossil remains of great beauty and interest. A short, but graphic, memoir by Mr. Murchison,* presents in a few pages the history of this ancient lake. The Rhine, in its course from Constance to Schaffhausen, flows through a depression of the tertiary marine formation, known by the name of *Molasse*, which forms hills on both sides of the river, of from 700 to 900 feet in height. In a depression or basin of this molasse, is a series of strata composed of *marls*, and cream-coloured, fine-grained, fetid limestone, with laminated white marl-stone, forming a total

* On a fossil Fox found at Ceningen, by R. I. Murchison, Esq., Pres. G.S. &c. Geological Transactions, 1832.