diversified the surface of countries which are now destroyed or entirely changed; and whose past existence is revealed by the spoils which the streams and rivers have accumulated in the ancient lakes and deltas. The ocean abounded in mollusca, crustacea, and fishes, a large proportion of which is referable to extinct species. Crocodiles, turtles, birds, and insects, were contemporary with the palæotherium, and anthracotherium; and animal organization, however varied in certain types, presented the same general outline as in modern times; the extinction of species and genera being then, as now, in constant activity. The vegetable world also contained the same great divisions; there were forests of oak, elm, and beech; of firs, pines, and other coniferous trees; palms, tree-ferns, and the principal groups of modern floras; while the water, both salt and fresh, teemed with the few and simple forms of vegetable structure peculiar to that element. The state of the inorganic world is not less manifest: the abrasion of the land by streams and rivers,—the destruction of the sea-shores by the waves, and the formation of beach and shingle,—the desolation inflicted by volcanic eruptions,—all these operations were then, as now, in constant action. The bed of an ancient sea, containing myriads of the remains of fishes, crustacea, and shells, now forms the site of the capital of Great Britain; and accumulations of tropical fruits and plants, drifted by ancient currents from other