occur throughout the entire series, and present the usual characters of the silicious nodules of the chalk formation. The Maestricht freestone is so extremely soft in the quarry, that it may easily be cut with a knife, but it becomes harder and of a lighter colour by exposure to the air.* The beds of limestone have a total thickness of about 500 feet. Excavations have for centuries been carried on in the strata of freestone, and from the immense quantities of stone removed, extensive caverns and galleries now traverse the heart of the mountain.† Shells, corals, crustacea, teeth of fishes, and other marine remains, occur in profusion; with wood perforated by lithodomi, and the bones of a large and very remarkable reptile.

10. THE MOSÆSAURUS; OR FOSSIL REPTILE OF MAESTRICHT.— The bones and teeth of an unknown animal which were occasionally found in the limestone, had long since directed the attention of naturalists to the quarries of St. Peter's Mountain. In 1770 M. Hoffmann, who was forming a collection of organic remains, had the good fortune

* The avidity of collectors has induced the quarrymen to practise an ingenious fraud upon strangers: teeth and bones of the horse, boar, &c. are carefully imbedded in blocks of the limestone while it is soft; and when the stone becomes hard, the specimens are offered for sale as genuine fossils from the quarries. The deception may be detected by immersing the specimens in water.

† See Hist. Nat. de la Montagne de St. Pierre, by Faujas St. Fond, 1 vol. 4to. with splendid engravings.