

firmed.* This is the fragment: it is part of the crown of a tooth, resembling in its prismatic form the incisor of one of the herbivorous mammalia, worn by use. The enamel is thick in front and thin behind, and by this disposition a sharp cutting edge is maintained in every stage. Here, then, is a character, which if we bear in mind the principles of comparative anatomy enforced in the second lecture, (page 132,) will afford us certain indications as to the nature of the animal to which it belonged. The structure of the tooth, and its worn surface, prove that it is referable to a species that fed on vegetables; the absence of a fang, and the appearance of the base, not broken, but *indented*, show that the shank has been absorbed from the pressure of a new tooth, which has grown up and supplanted the old one; a process too familiar to require explanation.†

In the teeth before us we trace every gradation of this change, from the perfect form (Tab. 82, fig. 2, and Pl. III. fig. 3),—the partially worn specimens (Tab. 82, figs. 4, 5, and Pl. III. figs. 6, 7), to

* “On the teeth of the iguanodon, a newly-discovered fossil herbivorous reptile, from the strata of Tilgate Forest.”—*Philos. Trans.* 1825.

† It cannot be requisite to notice the vulgar error that the first teeth in children have no fangs; it may however elucidate the remarks in the text, if the reader be reminded that the absence of fangs in the teeth shed in childhood, results from the absorption of the fang of the old teeth, occasioned by the pressure of those which are to supply their place.