

was slowly up-heaved, and as the elevation continued, the depositions which had formed in the basin of the ocean, and had become consolidated, were broken up, and as they approached the surface were acted upon by the waves. The chalk strata now began to suffer degradation and destruction, and the delta of the country of the iguanodon emerged above the waters; and finally, even the ancient petrified forest was brought to view, and became dry land. At length some masses rose to an elevation of a few hundred feet above the level of the sea, and formed a group of islands; but, in the depressions of the strata beneath the waters, deposits went on, from the waste of the cliffs on the sea-shores. Large mammalia now inhabited such portions of the former ocean-bed as were clothed with vegetation, and as they died their skeletons were enveloped in the accumulations of mud and gravel which were forming in the bays and estuaries. This era also passed away—the elevation continued—other portions of the bed of the chalk-ocean became dry land—and at length also those newer strata, in which the remains of the mammoth and the elk, the last tenants of the country, were entombed. The oak, elm, ash, and other trees of modern Europe, sprang up where the palms and tree-ferns once flourished; the deer, boar, and horse, ranged where the mighty reptiles once ruled sole monarchs of the country; and lastly, man appeared, and took possession of the