

but the chalk ocean was not only peopled by *chelonias*, but also by two or more enormous saurians, for the mosæsauros lived in the cretaceous seas; and the ichthyosaurus, and plesiosaurus, as will be shown hereafter, were unquestionably inhabitants of the deep.

2. ZOOLOGICAL CHARACTER OF THE WEALDEN.

—During the wealden epoch the lakes and rivers were peopled by fishes, mollusca, and crustacea, which, though specifically distinct from the recent, presented the same principal types as now exist in fresh-water. The lacustrine and marsh plants, and the palms, tree-ferns, and cycadeæ, constitute a flora offering peculiar generic and specific characters, but resembling the usual forms of tropical vegetation. The fresh-water turtles, crocodiles, and wading-birds, are in accordance with the fauna of modern tropical regions; but the colossal reptiles,—the iguanodon, megalosaurus, and hylæosaurus,—whose living analogues must be sought in the pigmy iguanas and monitors, constitute a zoological character altogether at variance with the existing economy of animated nature. Here, then, we have evidence of a country *almost exclusively inhabited by enormous reptiles*; for although the most delicate plants, leaves, and fruits, the fragile bones of birds, the epidermis, and even ligaments of brittle shells, are found, not a vestige of any mammiferous animal has been discovered. I forbear to comment in this place on this astounding fact, of which the