

tertiary deposits afforded us no intimation. We have now approached the *Age of reptiles*—that geological epoch in which the earth swarmed with enormous oviparous quadrupeds; and the sea, the lakes, and the rivers teemed with reptile forms.

3. SITE OF THE COUNTRY OF THE IGUANODON.—Before I proceed to the consideration of the secondary formations which are antecedent to the wealden, I would briefly consider the question relative to a difference of climate which our discoveries seem to imply. From what has been advanced it is natural to inquire, whether at the period of the wealden these latitudes enjoyed a tropical temperature—whether turtles, crocodiles, and gigantic reptiles, here flourished amid forests of tree-ferns and palms; or if the geographical situation of the country of the iguanodon was far distant from the area now occupied by its spoils? I shall not venture to give a decided reply to this interrogation, but content myself with offering some remarks on the appearance of transport which the fossils of the wealden exhibit; for I may premise, that the state of the organic remains does not seem to warrant the assumption that the reptiles and terrestrial plants, like the zoophytes, mollusca, and fishes of the chalk, lived and died on the spots where their remains are found entombed. With the exception of the beds of river shells, of cyprides, and of equiseta, (which naturally affect a marshy soil,) all the remains bear marks of having been