

the fragments still remain near each other; the bones are dislocated, yet lie in a situation bearing some relation to their original state. These circumstances indicate that the carcase of the original must have suffered injury and mutilation, and that the dislocated and broken bones were held together by the muscles and integuments; in this state the headless trunk must have floated down the river, and at length sunk into the mud of the delta, and formed, as it were, a nucleus, around which the stems and leaves of palms and tree-ferns accumulated, and river shells became intermingled with the general mass.

The phenomena here contemplated appear to admit of but one explanation—that of a considerable period of transport; the carcases of the large reptiles must have long been exposed to such an agency, and the river which flowed through the country of the iguanodon, must have had its source far distant, perhaps thousands of miles, from the delta which it deposited. The course of that river—the extent of that delta—the situation of that country, will probably for ever remain unknown. These, as I conceive, are the conclusions which the facts we have examined substantiate.\* I do not, however, mean to intimate that there are not proofs

\* The Mississippi flows through twenty degrees of latitude and seven of longitude, and drains a valley 3000 miles long and nearly 1000 broad; its delta extends out to sea several hundred miles.