

latter being more than twice as large as the former. It has been ascertained that a similar disproportion is observable in the footmarks of bears. Some of the impressions exhibit distinct marks of nails. These singular appearances are supposed to have been produced by imprints of the feet of a marsupial animal, like the kangaroo; but this is mere conjecture, and until bones shall have been discovered in the strata, but little reliance can be placed on the hypothesis, however ingenious. The largest marks are eight inches long, and five wide. No sooner had the savans of Europe been made acquainted with these phenomena, than a discovery of a corresponding kind was noticed in the United States, by Professor Hitchcock, of which an interesting account was published in the American Journal of Science for 1836. In the laminated new red sandstone, which is spread over the valley of the Connecticut, numerous foot-prints appear on the surface of the sandstones when split asunder, exactly in the same manner as the ripple-marks on the Tilgate grit (page 356). These impressions are supposed by Professor Hitchcock to have been made by the footsteps of birds: if this opinion be correct, it is clear that the feathered tribes of that ancient epoch were the iguanodons of their race, for the dimensions of one kind of foot-mark are *fifteen inches long*, exclusively of the large claws, which are two inches in length; a proportion twice as large as those of the ostrich! The impressions