

or present eras : throughout the vast accumulations of the spoils of the ancient islands and continents, although the remains of crocodiles, fresh-water turtles, insects and terrestrial plants abound, jaws of small animals related to the opossum are the sole indications of the existence of *mammalia* ; and the bones of a species of wader, the only evidence of the presence of birds. In vain we seek for the relics of man, or the remains of works of art—for the skeletons of the mastodon or of the elk—of the *palæotheria*, or of other *mammalia* that were their contemporaries ; the osseous remains of terrestrial or fluviatile reptiles alone appear. Here then, in the language of Cuvier, “ nous remontons à un autre âge du monde—à cet âge où la terre n’était encore parcourue que par des reptiles à sang froid ; où la mer abondait en ammonites, en bélemnites, en térébratules, en encrinites ; et où tous ces genres, aujourd’hui d’une rareté prodigieuse, faisaient le fond de sa population.”*

We have seen that in the carboniferous limestone, the lowermost or most ancient of the formations in which reptiles occur, turtles and several genera related to the lizards have been discovered ; in the lias, swarms of the extinct marine reptiles, the *ichthyosauri* and *plesiosauri*, with turtles, crocodiles, and pterodactyles ; in the oolite, the *megalosaurus*, and several new genera allied to the crocodile, and two genera of *mammalia* ; in the wealden, the *igua-*

* Oss. Foss. tom. v.