

waters which deposited the marine strata of the most ancient beds previously examined; but altogether dissimilar to those of more modern eras. In vain may we seek for the remains of the mammalia of the tertiary period—of the mollusca, fishes, and reptiles of the chalk—of the colossal oviparous quadrupeds of the country of the iguanodon—of the dragon-forms of the Jura limestone—of the fish-like lizards of the lias—or of the tropical forests of the coal-measures—all have disappeared; and as the traveller who ascends to the regions of eternal snow, gradually loses sight of the abodes of man, and of the groves and forests, till he arrives at sterile plains, where a few stunted shrubs alone meet his eye; and as he advances, even these are lost, and mosses and lichens remain the only vestiges of organic life; and these too at length pass away, and he enters the confines of the inorganic kingdom of nature:—in like manner the geologist who penetrates the secret recesses of the globe, perceives at every step of his progress the existing forms of animals and vegetables gradually disappear, while the shades of other creations teem around him; these in their turn vanish from his sight—other new and strange modifications of organic structure supply their place; these also fade away—traces of animal and vegetable life become less and less manifest, till they altogether disappear; and he descends to the primary rocks, where all evidence of organization is lost, and the granite, like a pall