

before you the series of illustrations employed in these lectures, that you may perceive at a glance the striking contrast presented by the fauna and flora of different geological epochs.* In the first stage, traces of the existing orders of animated nature were everywhere apparent; and works of art, with the bones of man and the remains of vegetables and of animals, were found in the modern deposits. In the succeeding era, many species and genera, both of plants and animals, were absent. Large terrestrial pachydermata greatly predominated, and the vegetation was principally of a character referable to temperate and intertropical climes; while the seas abounded in fishes, crustacea, and mollusca, as at the present time.

The next epoch presented one wide waste of waters, teeming with the general types of marine beings, but of different species and genera to those of the previous eras, and bearing a large proportion of cephalopodous mollusca. A few algæ and fuci made up the marine flora; and drifted trunks of coniferæ and dicotyledonous trees, with a few reptiles, were the only indications of the dry land and its inhabitants. The delta of a mighty river now appeared, containing the spoils of an extensive island

* The reader may realize this idea by referring to the illustrations of these volumes, commencing with the fossil human skeleton (p. 75), and proceeding from the large mammalia (pp. 141, 162, 241), to the last of the series, the corals, shells, and plants, of the ancient secondary deposits (pp. 571, 588, 682, &c.)