

or continent; and the remains of colossal reptiles, and of unknown forms of tropical plants, marked the era of the country of the iguanodon.

We were then conducted to other seas, whose waters abounded in fishes and mollusca, and were inhabited by marine reptiles, wholly unlike any that now exist; while the dry land was tenanted by enormous terrestrial and flying reptiles, marsupial animals and insects, and possessed a tropical flora of a peculiar character. In the next era, we found another sea swarming with fishes, mollusca, and corals, and with reptiles similar to those of the preceding period.

The succeeding change disclosed extensive regions, covered by a luxuriant vegetation; with groves and forests of palms, arborescent ferns, and coniferæ, and gigantic trees related to the existing club-mosses and equisetaceæ; the numerical preponderance of the flowerless plants, constituting a character wholly unknown in modern floras. The ocean abounded in mollusca, radiaria, and crustacea, of genera and species, unlike any that had previously appeared.

We advanced to other oceans, swarming with polyparia, mollusca, radiaria, and fishes, which bore some analogy to those of the preceding seas, but belonged to different species: interspersions of cryptogamous plants, with a flora related to the one immediately antecedent, marked the existence of dry land. But traces of animal and vegetable existence became less