

into stone, and the various states in which their fossil remains occur, have already been explained.

The strata of vegetable origin consist of peat—of forests ingulfed by subsidences of the land, or imbedded in the mud of rivers and deltas, or in the basin of the sea—of the lignite and brown coal of the tertiary deposits—of the coal and shales of the carboniferous strata—and of the silicified and calcareous trunks of trees in tertiary and secondary formations. But the deposits which are derived either wholly or in part from animal exuviae are so numerous, and of such prodigious extent, that the interrogation of the poet may be repeated by the philosopher—

“Where is the dust that has not been alive?”—YOUNG.

Probably there is not an atom of the crust of the globe, which has not passed through the complex and wonderful laboratory of life. Thus we find that all the orders of animals, from the infusoria up to man, have more or less contributed, by their organic remains, to swell the amount of the solid materials of the earth. The following tabular arrangement presents in a condensed form some of the most striking results.

ROCKS COMPOSED WHOLLY OR IN PART OF
ANIMAL REMAINS.

Strata.	Prevailing Remains.	Formations.
Trilobite-schist.....	Trilobites	{ Silurian system
Dudley limestone	Corals, crinoidea, trilobites and shells	