

the superficial soil, or in situations accessible from it. In peat produced by the growth of mosses, and in the areas of felled or submerged forests, the bones and utensils of men are found; and the remains of recent animals. The limestones which are continually formed by the deposition of the fine particles previously dissolved in water, coral formations close to sea-shores, and sand and mud drifted into hollows, would readily involve human remains; so that it is rather a subject of surprise that instances like that of the Guadeloupe skeleton, and fragments of pottery in travertin, are not abundant. It seems impossible to avoid the conclusion that such would have been the case, if human beings had existed in any of the geological formations, previous to the most recent surface. In clefts and cavities of the older rocks, which have been upheaved and subsequently shattered and laid bare, men have taken refuge, or their bones have been buried; but the access to those hollow places, and the various matters which have fallen or been carried into them, are always of a recent character. In some countries, vast quantities of mud brought down by mighty rivers and occasional floods, have buried the persons and habitations of men; and the same result has been produced by terrible and sudden subsidences of land, and slips on mountainsides. The strata of mud and sand which have necessarily been forming in the waters, ever since the present distribution of sea and land was arranged by the power and wisdom of the Most High, have been receiving, for at least three thousand years, the bodies and the property of men, in wrecks without number; and many of the substances so sunk in the deep, when encased as they sooner or later must be, are indestructible till the internal fires shall prey upon them. Consequently, if ever those strata be upheaved, and come to be quarried by the men of a future age, what astonishing disclosures will be laid open to their view!

But nothing of this kind is brought to light in the stratification of the earth, below the habitable surface, or that which it is demonstrable has been recently detached from it: while those strata contain the most astonishing multitudes of animal populations; not excluding the order (*Quadrumana*) which approaches nearest to the human form, for fossil bones of at least two large species of the monkey tribe were discovered in 1836, in the lower part of the Himalayan mountains. Other remains of that order have recently been found in France, in Brazil, and but this summer (1839) in an apparently London-clay formation near Woodbridge. Yet in no formation that can be called stratified, even of the newest Tertiary beds, has any thing human been discovered. Not in the mass of fine loam which covers 3000 square miles of surface in the valley of the Rhine, and