

on to an immense extent; and probably, far beneath the surface, the same operation may at the present moment be in constant progress, and effecting as important changes in the consolidation of loose materials, as in the earlier geological epochs.

I now proceed to consider the various states, in which the remains of animals and plants are preserved in the strata, and I shall occasionally offer suggestions for collecting and preparing specimens; but particular instructions on this head will be given, when the different kinds of fossils are respectively considered.

ANIMAL REMAINS.—Of the higher orders of animals, the durable portions of the skeletons, as the bones and teeth, are almost the only parts that occur in the mineral kingdom; with the exception of those remarkable instances, in which the entire carcase of colossal mammalia allied to the elephant, and of extinct kinds of rhinoceros, are found imbedded in solid ice. (*Wond.* p. 139.) The countries of arctic regions are now the only localities in which such phenomena are likely to be met with; it appears, however, that in some remote periods of the earth's physical history, the carcasses of large mammalia were transported by icebergs into temperate regions, where the ice melted, and the bodies either sunk to the bottom of the sea, or were drifted into estuaries, or stranded on the shore: the soft