

block should therefore be carefully examined, to ascertain if traces of the skin or integuments be present, before any part is removed by the chisel. The specimen of an Ichthyosaurian paddle, figured in the second volume of this work, affords a good illustration of the propriety of this caution. Around the bones are seen the carbonized remains of the cartilaginous fringe that supported the integuments, and thus the perfect form of the paddle has been ascertained. Had the stone been chiselled away around the bones, these important characters would have been obliterated, as probably they have been in numerous instances.

The scales of fishes, and the integuments of marine reptiles, are not the only vestiges of the dermal covering of vertebrated animals, that are preserved by mineralization. Traces of the wing-integument of flying reptiles, and of the feathers of birds, are sometimes manifest: and even when every atom of organized structure is lost, the impressions may remain, and afford highly interesting results. The footmarks of unknown animals are often preserved in the rocks (*Bd.* pl. 26. *Wond.* p. 478.), and the imprints of the feet of several species of birds of colossal size, and in tracks as distinct as if but recently walked over, have been discovered in the New Red sandstone of North America; this is one of the most striking, and unexpected phenomena, revealed by modern Geology. (*Bd.* pl. 27.) In the