

were published from time to time, as fresh discoveries disclosed new modifications of structure in this prodigious creature, an attempt was made to estimate the probable magnitude of the original, by instituting a comparison between the fossil bones and those of the Iguana; the recent type which the form of the teeth seemed to point out as the one most nearly related to the extinct reptile. It was thus shown that if the proportions were the same in both, the Iguanodon must have attained seventy feet or more in length. But this statement was qualified (more than *eleven years since*) by the following remarks:—"It is not, of course, pretended that such an estimate can offer more than *a very distant approximation to the truth*; yet it may be confidently affirmed that a reptile, which required a thigh-bone larger than that of the Elephant to support it, could not be of less colossal dimensions. Should subsequent discoveries prove that the Iguanodon more nearly corresponded in the proportions of the tail with the Crocodilian family than with the Lizards, its total length would be much less than is here inferred; and from the shape of some of the fossil metacarpal and phalangeal bones, it appears highly probable that the original *was more bulky in proportion to its length*, than the existing Lacertians." (*Geol. S. E.* p. 315.). In subsequent notices of the Iguanodon this opinion was reiterated, and on the discovery of perfect caudal vertebræ, I expressed my conviction that the tail of the Iguanodon must