

of a medallion is not more sharp and clear than are most of these imprints; and I would suggest that their remarkable preservation may probably be ascribed to the circumstance that the entire surface of the stratum was incrustated with a layer of micaceous sandstone, and which adhered so firmly, that it could not be removed without the laborious and skilful application of the chisel. The appearance of this glossy layer, which is of a grey colour, while the slab is of a dark red, seems to indicate that it was washed or blown over the latter, while in a state of loose sand; thus filling up the foot-prints and rain-drops, and preserving them unchanged in the smallest particular; the form of the nails or claws, and joints, and the deep impressions of the distal extremity of the tarso-metatarsal, or shank-bone, being exquisitely displayed. The great slab (*Lign.* 151.), which is about six by eight feet in dimensions, and two inches in thickness, contains above seventy-five impressions. There are five rows of the species called by Professor Hitchcock, *Ornithichnites fulcoides*,* of five and six foot-marks each; three rows of the medium size, of four imprints each; one row of the small size of fourteen consecutive imprints; besides several others, ranging from two to six impressions each. It is worthy of remark, that of these numerous foot-prints, with but one or two exceptions, two or more nowhere occur on the same spot."

The direction and disposition of these foot-prints on the large slab are shown in *Lign.* 151; and lines are drawn from one imprint to another in the consecutive series, to render the illustration more intelligible.

* *O. fulcoides*, so named from the resemblance to the foot-prints made by the recent Cinereous Coot (*Fulica Americana*). See *Trans. American Geologists*, p. 259, 1 vol. 8vo. Boston, 1843.