

A  
GEOLOGICAL EXCURSION

TO  
TILGATE FOREST; A. D. 2000.

BY THOMAS HOOD, ESQ.

(*Anticipatory ; for the 100th edition of the Medals of Creation.*)

"Vincit omnia amor." OVID.  
..... hammer. HOOD.

TIME has been called the test of truth, and some old verities have made him testy enough. Scores of ancient authorities has he exploded like Rupert's drops, by a blow upon their tales: but at the same time he has bleached many black-looking stories into white ones, and turned some tremendous bouncers into what the French call *accomplished facts*. Look at the Megatherium or Mastodon, which a century ago even credulity would have scouted, and now we have *Mantell*-pieces of their bones! The headstrong fiction which Mrs. Malaprop treated as a mere allegory on the banks of the Nile, is now the *Iguanodon*! To venture a prophecy, there are more such prodigies to come true.