

appeared in relief, *fig. 2*. These are the casts of impressions which had been made on an inferior layer, deposited several tides before; and I ascertained that on the upper and under surfaces of several other thin laminæ, shown in the cross section No. 3, there exist similar foot-marks, each set made by birds at different times. It will be seen that the toes which are indented in No. 1, are represented by protuberances in No. 2, and that at *d* the mark of a single toe occurs in relief, and quite isolated. This occurrence was not unfrequent, and Mr. Waterhouse has suggested to me in explanation that these waders, as they fly near the ground, often let one leg hang down, so that the longest toe touches the surface of the mud occasionally, leaving a single mark of this kind. The slabs here figured have been presented by me to the British Museum, in order that those naturalists who are still very sceptical as to the real origin of the ancient fossil ornithicnites, of which there are some fine examples in our national repository, may compare the fossil products of the month of July, 1842, with those referable to feathered bipeds which preceded the era of the Ichthyosaurus, Iguanodon, and Pterodactyl.

On several wide areas, comprising many hundreds of acres each, I saw the surface of the red mud fissured in all directions by the shrinkage accompanying desiccation, and I was surprised to find some of the cracks several inches wide, and no less than two or three feet deep. Occasionally, a fresh tide had deposited sediment in the older cracks, filling them up, and this mud having in its turn become hardened, together with a new contemporaneous superficial