

the bottom. And this familiar instance, with allowance for the modifying action of currents, illustrates, on a small scale, the manner in which all our sandstone quarries have resulted from substances, suspended in lakes and seas, gradually sinking by their weight, and becoming accumulated in the channel. Aqueous Rocks are also said to be *stratified*, because they are *strewed* with considerable regularity, and form successive strata, or layers, imposed on one another. They are also said to be *fossiliferous*, when they contain fossils or remains of vegetables and animals embedded in their substance.

The older fossils are generally in a petrified state. In such cases, bone and wood have not been converted into stone, but have become saturated with mineral matter, or wholly replaced by it; and the manner in which such combinations and exchanges of substance take place, while the most perfect delicacy of filaments and tissue is preserved, and the most microscopic details of internal structure are shown, is a subject of great interest, and one as yet imperfectly understood.

In these few words I have described cursorily