

occurrence in certain deposits of the remains of man and his works, it is always in reference to strata confessedly of the most modern order ; and it is never pretended that our race co-existed with assemblages of animals and plants, of which *all or even a great part of the species* are extinct.

‘ No inhabitant of the land exposes himself to so many dangers on the waters as man, whether in a savage or civilized state ; and there is no animal, therefore, whose skeleton is so liable to become embedded in lacustrine or submarine deposits : nor can it be said that his remains are more perishable than those of other animals ; for in ancient fields of battle, as Cuvier has observed, the bones of men have suffered as little decomposition as those of horses which were buried in the same grave. But even if the more solid parts of our species had disappeared, the impression of their form would have remained engraven on the rocks, as have the traces of the tenderest leaves of plants, and the soft integuments of many animals. Works of art, moreover, composed of the most indestructible materials, would have outlasted almost all organic contents of sedimentary rocks. Edifices, and