

The term is meant to denote that the rocks of this class sometimes occur in large tabular masses, which rise one above another like steps and stairs.—*Hoblyn*.

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Trilobites. These are a family of the order of *crustacea*, which became extinct at the close of the carboniferous epoch.—*Richardson*. Called trilobite, or three-lobed, from their general form.—*Mantell*.

Tropics. (From *τροπή*, a turning.) In geography, two lesser circles of the globe, drawn parallel to the equator, through the beginning of Cancer and of Capricorn.

Turrilites. Conspicuous among the fossil mollusca of the cretaceous group, and foreign to the tertiary and recent periods: of the family cephalopoda, to which the living cuttle-fish and nautilus belong.—*Lyell*.

UNCONFORMABLE. Strata are said to be conformable, when their planes of stratification are parallel; otherwise, they are unconformable, . . . 28

VALVE. (From *valvæ*, folding doors;) one of the lids or pieces in bivalve and multivalve shells, . . . 34

'Vestiges of Creation.' Remarks on that work, . . . 101

Vertebræ, vertebrata. A vertebra is a joint of the back-bone. The vertebræ in man are the twenty-four bones which constitute, by their articulation, the vertebral column. They are distributed from their relative situations, into the clavical, dorsal, and lumbar.—*Palmer*. The vertebrata are a large