

their previous limits. It was this ice, either floating like icebergs, or, as there is still more reason to believe moving along the ground, like the glaciers of the present day, that, in its movement towards the South, rounded and polished the hardest rocks, and deposited the numerous detached fragments brought from distant localities, which we find every where scattered about upon the soil, and which are known under the name of *erratics*, *boulders*, or *grayheads*. This phase of the earth's history has been called, by geologists, the *Glacial* or *Drift period*.

496. After the ice that carried the erratics had melted away, the surface of North America and the North of Europe was covered by the sea, in consequence of the general subsidence of the continents. It is not until this period that we find, in the deposits known as the diluvial or pleistocene formation, incontestable traces of the species of animals now living.

497. It seems, from the latest researches of Geologists, that the animals belonging to this period are exclusively marine; for, as the northern part of both continents was covered to a great depth with water, and only the summits of the mountains were elevated above it, as islands, there was no place in our latitudes where land or fresh-water animals could exist. They appeared therefore at a later period, after the water had again retreated; and as, from the nature of their organization, it is impossible that they should have migrated from other countries, we must conclude that they were created at a more recent period than our marine animals.

498. Among these land animals which then made their appearance, there were representatives of all the genera and species now living around us, and besides these, many types now extinct, some of them of a gigantic size, such as the Mastodon; the remains of which are found in the upper-