

being the natural marine successors of these strata on the Continent of Europe, are in like manner *the natural marine successors of the lake-formed sediments of the red Keuper marls*, and in reality are true passage beds from those red marls into the Lower Lias; and a candid consideration of the fossil fish, reptiles, shells, insects, and plants of the British Rhætic strata strengthens this view. When the waters of the old lakes were invaded by the sea, a migration of a few marine forms took possession of the old lacustrine area, and this depression gradually proceeding, culminated in the development of the great Liassic fauna, at a time when the old continent was submerged, and the mountain tracts were converted into groups of islands, the shores of which were washed by a broadening Liassic sea.