hills, were much older than the Oolitic series, then lay buried deep beneath the uppermost Oolitic strata, and all the ground between Wales and the high tracts of the North of England formed part of the vast plain that bordered the river; while far away, on the north, rose the majestic mountains which we now call the Highlands of Scotland, then much higher than now, for ever since that time they have been undergoing waste and degradation. We have probably no actual knowledge of the mountain vegetation of the period, but on the flats by the river there were *Equisetums* in the marshes, and ferns, coniferous trees, *Zamias*, and *Cycas* on the drier ground; crocodiles, turtles, and fish, swarmed in the waters; small marsupial mammals lived upon the flats, along with great reptiles, the *Iguanodon*, *Hylæosaurus*, and the gigantic *Megalosaurus*, while the winged *Pterodactyle* preyed on the insects that flitted through the air of a climate, probably as warm as that of the Delta of the Ganges.

How far to the west this old flat land spread no man can tell, but I have no doubt that Wales stood in the midst of it, for the Oolites passed out on the south through the area of what is now Bristol Channel, and on the north across the country now occupied by the estuaries of the Mersey and the Dee, and it is also very likely that at that period the whole of Ireland may have formed part of that old land. On the east our territory was undoubtedly joined to a great continent, which, after undergoing many revolutions, is now modern Europe, but it is hard to discover the details of its physical geography. Of this, however, we are sure, that the Scandinavian mountains were then loftier than at present, for they are certainly of older date than the deposition of the Old Red Sandstone, and probably older than the Upper