

not have been destitute of animal life of many kinds, both in the waters and on the lands. But on reflection it is not to be wondered at that such remains are absent. In the first place there are no great river deposits of Miocene age remaining in Britain, in which such kinds of organic remains might lie buried, and the only lacustrine strata preserved lie in a small area of a few miles in length at Bovey Tracey. Neither is it likely that bones of mammalia should be found in the thin local soils, of a few inches in thickness, that were formed during the intervals of eruptions on the sides of lofty volcanoes. If, as I believe, a populous mammalian fauna lived and died and left their bones on the land of that old area, these bones decayed, unburied in sediments, and helped to nourish the luxuriant vegetation. But on the adjacent land, of what is now the Continent of Europe, there is no lack of mammalian and other bones to tell us what may have been the kinds of animals that inhabited our now insular area, for in the shallow near-shore deposits of the Faluns of Touraine, we find the *Dinotherium*, the elephantine *Mastodon*, *Rhinoceros*, *Hippopotamus*, *Dichobune*, and *Deer*, and in the fresh-water Miocene strata of the banks of the Rhine, between Bingen and Basle, a similar assemblage occurs.

In Switzerland, between the Alps and the Jura, besides fresh-water shells and spiders, and all the tribes of insects of familiar genera, we find *Salamanders*, *Frogs* and *Toads*, *Lizards*, *Crocodiles*, *Serpents*, *Tortoises*, and *Birds*. Of the mammalia in the Swiss strata, thirty-eight genera and fifty-nine species are named by Heer, which approach more closely to the Eocene fauna than to that of the present day. Of these, twenty-nine are extinct, and of the remainder only