

size near Albany (New York), and surmised that they must have belonged to a race of giants. In 1739, a French officer, Longueil, brought back to Paris fossil bones and teeth found in a marsh near Ohio. Daubenton and Buffon identified the bones as *Elephas* and the back teeth as *Hippopotamus* remains. More complete fossil remains were discovered by Croghan and Peale, and the restoration of a skeleton was attempted. Cuvier, with his customary insight, recognised in this an extinct genus of Proboscidae, to which he gave the name of *Mastodon*. His great work on *Mastodon* gives a full account of all the remains of this extinct genus that had been found up to that time in North America.

In a cave in West Virginia, Jefferson discovered along with *Mastodon* remains the extremities of another diluvial animal. Cuvier examined these, and referred them to a gigantic genus (*Megalonyx*) belonging to the Edentates.

Throughout Mexico, Yucatan, Bolivia, Peru and Chili, fossil bones of enormous size had been frequently found during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. In 1789, Loretto, the Regent of Buenos Ayres, sent a complete skeleton of one of these fossil animals to Madrid, and shortly after, two other skeletons were sent from Lima and Paraguay. These were described by J. Garriga under the generic name of *Megatherium*; they were found to belong to the Edentates, and, like *Megalonyx*, to the sub-order *Gravigrada*. Garriga's identification was afterwards confirmed by Cuvier. The first remains of a *Glyptodon*, another of these heavily-built fossil Edentates, are mentioned by the Jesuit Falkner in the account of his travels.

Alexander von Humboldt's observations were the earliest contribution to the geology of Central America. This great geographer applied Werner's system of rock-formations, and wherever he travelled in Central and South America identified the rocks in accordance with Werner's petrographical teaching. He thought that the distribution of the rocks in these regions fully confirmed Werner's chronological succession of the groups of formations.

In Asia, the pioneer work of Pallas in Siberia and the Urals was continued by Patrin, who published in 1783 the *Account of his Travels in the Altai Mountains*. The geological structure of Central and Southern Asia, Australia, and Africa was still a blank in the beginning of the nineteenth century. The