

deposits of the north of Siberia. These remains, as far back as the later years of the seventeenth century, had been known to exist, for a trade in the ivory tusks of fossil elephants from the Siberian coasts and rivers had before that time been carried on. The actual bones of these animals were subsequently disinterred by observers capable of describing their mode of occurrence, so that Pallas had his curiosity much excited by the accounts which had already been published. There was still much to be found out regarding these strange relics of the frozen north, and Pallas determined to investigate the subject in the fullest detail. He kept his eye open for every trace of fossils of any kind, and one of the most valuable parts of his labours is to be seen in the precision with which he chronicles every fossiliferous locality. But the most astonishing feature of his journeys in this respect was the proofs he obtained of the almost incredible number of bones and tusks of the huge pachyderms. The whole vast basin of Siberia lying to the east of the Ural mountains, and north of the Altai chain to the shores of the Arctic Ocean, was found by him to be, as it were, strewn with these remains. He noticed that the bones belonged to species of elephant, rhinoceros and buffalo, and in one case he saw parts of the carcass of a rhinoceros still retaining its leather-like skin and its short hairs. From the abundance of hair on some parts of the skin of these animals, he inferred that the rhinoceros of Siberia could live in a more temperate climate than its living representatives now enjoy.

But undoubtedly the most important contribution made by Pallas to geological investigation is to be