

state, in what are termed the ancient strata of the Jura. The Pterodactyle of Cuvier is an animal which seems to confound all our notions of system. Its mouth was like the long bill of a bird, and its flexible neck corresponded ; but it had teeth in its jaws like those of a crocodile. It had the bones of the anterior extremity prolonged, and fashioned somewhat like those in the wing of a bird ; but it could not have had feathers, as it had not a proper bill. We see no creature having feathers without a bill to dress and prin them. Nor did this extremity resemble in its structure that of a bat : instead of the phalanges or rows of bones of all the fingers being equally prolonged, as in the bat, the second finger only was extended to an extraordinary length, whilst the third, fourth, and fifth had the length and articulation of those of a quadruped, and they were terminated with sharp nails, corresponding with the pointed teeth. The extended metacarpal bone and phalanges reached to double the whole length of the animal, and the conjecture is, that there was extended upon them a membrane resembling that of the *Draco fimbriatus*. In the imperfect specimens which we have to found our reasoning upon, we cannot discover either in the height of the pelvis, the strength of the vertebræ of the back, or the expansion of the sternum, a provision for the attachment of muscles commensurate with the extent of the supposed wing.