

tion or production of the "primitive rocks," we have at present only to notice the stratifications superimposed. Of these, the most striking and the most difficult to reconcile to theory, are the strata of coal: but we pass over them as containing no animal remains in which the knowledge of the anatomy of the vertebrata can be of use. On the supposition that these beds of coal are vegetable productions, we might expect to find the remains of terrestrial animals within them: but it is conjectured that the vegetables which compose them, were not such as we are now familiar with, and that the land where they grew did not form a suitable habitation for animals corresponding with those of the present epoch.

Above the beds of coal, are strata, regular, well ascertained, and interesting as indicating the presence of the coal beneath. The next remarkable stratifications above them come to be connected with our subject; because they contain the remains of gigantic animals, with a regular skeleton on the system of the vertebrata.

Some of the oviparous quadrupeds, here alluded to, are estimated to have been eighty feet in length.* But although their skeletons were

* The Megalosaurus, discovered by Professor Buckland in Oxfordshire, is supposed to have been about seventy feet in length. The Iguanodon, an herbivorous masticating reptile, first discovered by Mr. Mantell in the Wealden beds, in Sussex, is computed to have been seventy or eighty feet in its entire length, its tail being fifty feet, its height nine feet, its hind foot six feet and a half, and its body about the same thickness as the elephant's.