

## CHAPTER XI.

*Supposed Cases of Fossil Human Bones.*

BEFORE we enter on the consideration of the fossil remains of other animals, it may be right to enquire whether any traces of the human species have yet been found in the strata of the earth.

The only evidence that has been yet collected upon this subject is negative; but as far as this extends, no conclusion is more fully established, than the important fact of the total absence of any vestiges of the human species throughout the entire series of geological formations.\* Had the case been otherwise, there would indeed have been great difficulty in reconciling the early and extended periods which have been assigned to the extinct races of animals with our received chronology. On the other hand, the fact of no human remains having as yet been found in conjunction with those of extinct animals, may be alleged in confirmation of the hypothesis that these animals lived and died before the creation of man.

\* See Lyell's Principles of Geology, vol. i. pp. 153 and 159, first edit. 1830.