

battles ; and may have pursued the line of march of triumphant Conquerors, whose armies trampled down the most mighty kingdoms of the world. The winds and storms have utterly obliterated the ephemeral impressions of their course. Not a track remains of a single foot, or a single hoof, of all the countless millions of men and beasts whose progress spread desolation over the earth. But the Reptiles, that crawled upon the half-finished surface of our infant planet, have left memorials of their passage, enduring and indelible. No history has recorded their creation or destruction ; their very bones are found no more among the fossil relics of a former world. Centuries, and thousands of years, may have rolled away, between the time in which these footsteps were impressed by Tortoises upon the sands of their native Scotland, and the hour when they are again laid bare, and exposed to our curious and admiring eyes. Yet we behold them, stamped upon the rock, distinct as the track of the passing animal upon the recent snow ; as if to show that thousands of years are but as nothing amidst Eternity—and, as it were, in mockery of the fleeting perishable course of the mightiest Potentates among mankind.\*

\* A similar discovery of fossil footsteps has recently been made in Saxony, at the village of Hessberg, near Hildburghausen, in several quarries of grey quartzose sandstone, alter-