

in the first chapter of Genesis, I shall not be wandering from the purpose of the present essay if I devote a few pages to the consideration of it.

The hypothesis in question is based by its learned promulgator chiefly upon the supposed age of the beds and strata in which the remains of these fossil Saurians generally have been found, which he states as more ancient than those which contain the remains of viviparous animals; and upon the myriads which appear, when they were the lords of our globe, to have existed. But it is clear from his own statement that with the fossil remains of the *Megalosaurus*, a giant lizard, calculated to have been forty feet in length and eight in height, those of some viviparous quadruped related to the *Opossum* have been found, which he acknowledges cannot be satisfactorily explained; a fact that militates strongly against an insulated Saurian reign. Nor is it altogether true that the remains of these mighty lizards are found solely in what are denominated *ancient* deposits; vertebral joints are not unfrequently found in other situations. I have one between three and four inches in diameter, which, from its being cupped, or deeply concave at each extremity, evidently belongs to one of these animals, which was found in a gravel-pit, at no great depth, in my own neighbourhood; and I have seen similar ones found in other parts of the county of Suffolk. These dispersed bones seem to indicate that the individuals to which they belonged were deposited in situations more exposed to the action of the atmosphere, so as to decompose the ligaments that kept the skeleton entire.* The interment of these animals was therefore various, and evidently regulated by circumstances, so that no satisfactory hypothesis can be built upon it. When

* Dr. Mantell is of opinion that the reptilean remains found in gravel have been washed out of ancient strata, of which gravel is the debris.—
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