

In Lower Egypt, analagous formations probably occur, since a coarse marly limestone, full of nummulites, is found near the pyramids.

Although in England these deposits contain no important minerals, a few specimens of selenite, of sulphate of barytes and of resinous substances making up the list, on the continent they are more productive; the beds of gypsum frequently become very important, sulphur is also often found in considerable quantity, amber and other resins probably of vegetable origin, also occur.

CHAPTER II.

General View of the Upper Marine Formation.

In the divisions above assigned, the reasons have been given for making the beds which repose upon the London clay, the first object of our detailed enquiry; the propriety of separating the consideration of those of marine and fresh-water formation is sufficiently obvious, to which it may be added that the latter occur only in a single district.

Strata, distinct in character from the London clay, and reposing upon it, may be traced in two separate tracts within the London basin; first, occupying a considerable district on the east coast of Suffolk, of which it forms the low cliffs, and secondly, forming the substratum of Bagshot heath, and other adjoining tracts of similar character. In the Isle of Wight basin, it has already been observed that the marine strata alternating with those containing fluviatile shells, occupy a similar, i. e. superior, position with regard to the London clay; and sandy tracts, seemingly holding the like place, may be found in other parts of that basin. That the beds occurring in the several districts above mentioned, agree in the relation of their posterior formation to the London clay, is manifest; but that they are strictly identical or contemporaneous, does not hence follow as a certain inference, since they may all have been local and unconnected deposits: it will therefore in the present state of our information be most advisable to dedicate a separate article to the exposition of the geological facts connected with each of the above districts.

1. That of Suffolk, where the deposit resting on the London clay appears as a sand or gravel enclosing shells of peculiar characters; the whole mass having obtained the local appellation of Crag.
2. The sandy beds of Bagshot and the neighbouring heaths.