

consist of ostreæ, cerithiæ, turritellæ, cythereæ, cyclades, &c. together with the teeth of fish, imperfect coal partaking more or less of the woody fibre, and sometimes exhibiting even the branches and leaves of plants :* and on the authority of Wilson Lowry, Esq. we are enabled to state, that in some beds belonging to the plastic clay formation in the immediate vicinity of Margate, fossil bones have lately been discovered.

The occurrence of organic remains in the different beds of this formation, is, like the alternation of the strata composing it, exceedingly irregular; sometimes they occupy the clay, at other times the sand or pebbles, and very frequently are wanting in them all. (G. T. vol. iv. p. 299.) There is not the smallest trace of animal or vegetable remains in any of the strata of this formation at Reading in Berkshire, except in the green sand. The same barrenness of organic remains is noticed in the purest beds of the French plastic clay, and by Mr. Webster (G. T. vol. ii. p. 200) in the plastic clay of the Isle of Wight and Corfe Castle.

(d) *Range and extent.*† The sands and clays of this formation, but chiefly the former, are visible overlying the chalk of the London basin, and for the most part skirt the whole district occupied by the London clay, beneath which they also lie. The highest northern point at which this formation is seen, is two or three miles south-west of Hadleigh in Essex, whence it borders the clay to about five miles south-west of Braintree, but the line between these deposits is not well ascertained; Halstead and Coggeshall, and the intermediate tract, are both on the plastic clay. Again, it extends from Ware on the north to near Edmonton on the south, over Enfield Chase, and passing close to St. Albans, it skirts the London clay to Uxbridge, on the north of which it takes a westerly direction to a little on the north of Beaconsfield in Buckinghamshire, and thence about south to the banks of the Thames. It is seen again at Reading in Berkshire, and extends thence, though not in a straight line, to a few miles beyond Hungerford, which

* Mr. Webster ascertained that the vegetables in this formation at Newhaven, agreed with those found in the Paris basin; one of these was the fruit of the Palm tree, another instance of the occurrence of the exotics of a warmer climate. (C.)

The north of France, from Beauvais to Reims presents a marly and sandy tract containing five beds of wood coal resembling those of the Isle of Wight, and like them supporting alternations of marine and fluviatile shells: similar facts are common among the contemporaneous formations of the continent. (C.)

* This indication of the exact limits of this formation on the side of its junction with the London clay, must, for the reasons assigned in treating of that formation, be regarded only as an approximation. (C.)