south. Some account of these localities may be found in De Luc's travels.

From Mona, the line of the chalk has not been traced: it probably traverses Holstein, (where it is said to occur, probably near the gypsum of Kiel) to the mouth of the Elbe, and thence crosses the German ocean to Flamborough head in Yorkshire; thus completing the circuit in which we have endeavoured to follow it.

Throughout this extensive tract, the chalk appears to preserve a remarkable uniformity of character, affording a satisfactory instance of the vast areas over which geological causes have operated in the formation of continuous deposits of a similar, or rather identical, nature. The great majority, (perhaps eight-tenths) of the organic remains also, which occur in this rock, are common* to all the localities in which it has been particularly observed; viz. England, France, the Netherlands, Germany and Poland: indeed we have never seen a fossil from any foreign chalk-pit, to which an analogue might not be produced from those of this island. These facts are interesting, as shewing that the comparison of formations in very distant tracts, rests on firm and satisfactory grounds, and as illustrating the importance of organic remains in establishing that comparison. Still it should be remembered, that the tract to which the above observations refer, extensive as it is, is yet but a small portion of the whole surface of the globe, is limited to a single basin, and lies under nearly a similar climate throughout. The progress of the science may be alike impeded by too hastily extending our generalisations beyond the boundaries strictly warranted by our induction, and by too sceptically rejecting the conclusions so warranted, merely because they are general.

Beyond the limits of the great cretaceous area already described, local tracts of chalk occur in the following places.

In Ireland, a remarkable deposit of chalk forms the basis of the great basaltic area in the north-east angle of that island; it contains flints; the organic remains agree with those of England; the thickness of the whole deposit does not exceed between 200 and 300 feet; it rests on green sand.

In Italy, the *Scaglia*, which covers the extreme secondary chains of the Alps in the Veronese, may perhaps be a variety

* Mr. Schlottheim, a German writer on the geological distribution of organic remains, has a remark which appears to contradict this opinion; but this arises from his considering the limestone beds above the chalk, in St. Peter's hill, Maestricht, which contain many peculiar fossils, as a part of the chalk formation.