

It is impossible to close this list of the remains of so many tribes of the rarest occurrence in a fossil state, and mostly unknown in the older rocks, thus singularly assembled and mingled together in a single and insignificant formation, and that in one limited spot, without remark. Those acquainted with the general distribution of organic remains, but not with the locality in question, would naturally be led to suspect that some of them, for instance the remains of the didelphys, the birds, and the coleopterous insects, must have been introduced into fissures of the regular strata at a subsequent and comparatively recent period, in the same manner as the bones discovered in the rock of Gibraltar: but the slightest examination of the spot, or even of the slabs brought from thence and containing these remains, will at once remove this suspicion, since they are found intimately associated with the shells which characterize this part of the oolitic series. The beds themselves are also most clearly to be traced holding a regular course together with the superior and inferior beds of this oolitic system, and cannot therefore be considered as a local, overlying, and recent deposit. Several varieties of shells, the most characteristic of which is a small studded trigonia, and several vegetables, principally flags, ferns, and mosses, occur in the same beds. Specimens of all these remains are preserved in the collection at Oxford; and Professor Buckland has obtained beautiful and accurate drawings of the whole series. It is greatly to be desired that these may shortly be submitted to the public.

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We must account for the presence of the Didelphys, birds, and Coleopterous insects, in the same manner as we do for the wood and remains of land vegetables not unfrequent in the strata: the amphibia may have belonged to species principally marine. It is evident from peculiarities in their structure, that many of the fossil animals, generally resembling the amphibia, lived entirely or almost so in the sea, and were to the now existing amphibia what the cetacea are to mammalia.