

sensibly diminished. Stuffed specimens were preserved in the museums of Europe, and paintings of the living animal are still extant in the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford, and in the British Museum. But the dodo is now extinct — it is no longer to be found in the isles where it once flourished; and even all the stuffed specimens are destroyed. The only relics that remain, are the head and foot of an individual in the Ashmolean, and the leg of another in the British Museum. To render this illustration complete, the bones of the dodo have been found in a tufaceous deposit, beneath a bed of lava, in the Isle of France; so that if the remains of the recent bird already alluded to, had not been preserved, these fossil relics would have constituted the only proof that such a creature had ever existed on our planet.

6. THE IRISH ELK, OR CERVUS MEGACEROS. (*elk with great antlers.*)—The shell marls of Ireland also afford evidence of the existence of an animal, which, like the dodo, was once cotemporaneous with the human species, but is now altogether extinct, the last individual of the race having, in all probability, been destroyed by man. Its remains commonly occur in the beds of marl beneath the peat-bogs, which are apparently, like those of Scotland, the sites of ancient lakes. In Curragh, immense quantities of the bones of the elk lie within a small space, as if the animals had assembled in a herd: the skeletons appear to be entire, and the