

to illustrate this description is copied from a rough sketch made by Mr. Lyell on the spot, when he first visited this interesting locality; and which I greatly value on that account.

The marls, as you may perceive, in this extensive suite of specimens, collected by Messrs. Lyell and Murchison, (whose admirable Memoir* on these strata is of high interest,) are very finely laminated, and contain insects and fishes in a remarkable state of preservation. The fishes are very numerous; one small species in particular (*smerdis minutus*, Tab. 44,) is found grouped together in every variety of form and position.

37. FOSSIL INSECTS.—But the fossil insects are the most extraordinary relics, appearing as fresh as if enveloped but yesterday. This beautiful example, presented to me by Mrs. Murchison, shows the exquisite preservation of these delicate objects. A few of the most interesting forms are here delineated on a slightly enlarged scale, from the plate accompanying the paper to which I have referred.†

All the insects belong to existing genera, and only one species is aquatic.‡ The anterior *tarsi* are generally obscure, or distorted; but in some specimens the claws are visible, and the sculpture, and even a degree of local colouring are

* On the Freshwater Formation of Aix, in Provence, by C. Lyell, and R. I. Murchison, Esqrs.

† Jameson's Edinburgh Journal, for 1829. Pl. VI.

‡ Principles of Geology, vol. iii. p. 211.