

in general of their osseous skeletons, and of detached bones; and rarely of the feathers and eggs. From the quarries of gypseous limestone of Montmartre, near Paris, Baron Cuvier obtained many bones, and some connected portions of the skeletons of several birds related to the Pelican, Sea-lark, Curlew, Woodcock, Owl, Buzzard, and Quail.* In several of these examples there are the imprints and remains of the quills and feathers; in some the skeleton has perished, and a pellicle of dark-brown substance, with the configuration of the original, alone remains (see *Wond.* p. 238.). These Ornitholites are associated with the bones of the Palæotheria, and other extinct mammalia of the eocene period. Two or three Ornitholites have been discovered at Montmartre, in which almost the entire skeleton is preserved. In one example, described by Baron Cuvier, the remains of a bird are displayed in such a manner as to render it probable that the animal had fallen on its belly, and become partially impacted in the surface of the soft gypsum, which is now become solid stone; and that, previously to its being completely enveloped, the principal part of its head and the left leg were removed by the agency either of some voracious animal, or by the action of the water. In addition to the other parts of the skeleton, the under side of the bill is very distinctly impressed on the stone, and the left branch is entire; there are also

* *Ossemens Fossiles*, Tom. III. p. 302, pl. 72—75.