

vary in extent from mere superficial hollows to deep excavations, and caverns of considerable magnitude. (*Wond.* p. 417.). Beneath the stalagmitic or sparry floors, and walls of some of these caverns, the bones of extinct species of Bears, Lions, and Hyenas, occur in immense quantities; but the full consideration of these phenomena will be reserved for the next chapter. The skeletons and detached bones of several kinds of Birds are often found imbedded with these remains; and under circumstances which seem to indicate that they were brought into these caverns as prey by the carnivora, with whose relics they are now associated. Some examples show that the birds had fallen into the fissure; others, that their bones had been transported to their present situation by the action of water.

In the Cave of Kirkdale, in Yorkshire (*Wond.* p. 169.), Dr. Buckland found bones of a species of Raven, Lark, Pigeon, Duck, and Snipe; and as almost all the specimens were the remains of wing-bones, it is considered probable that they are the relics of dead birds, which had been brought into the cave by the hyenas, whose den it is supposed to have been for a considerable period.*

It is an extraordinary fact, that among the innumerable remains of vertebrated terrestrial animals, which have been discovered in the drift, or ancient alluvial deposits of Europe, scarcely any

* *RELIQUE DILUVIANÆ*, p. 34.