

CHAPTER XX.

FOSSIL MAMMALIA.

THE remains of MAMMALIA that have been discovered in a fossil state, include an immense number of species, and furnish examples of almost every living genus, and of numerous genera, and even orders, of which no existing species are known. Yet amidst the vast accumulations of the skeletons of the higher orders of vertebrata contained in the superficial drift, and in tertiary deposits, belonging to species which have successively appeared on the surface of our planet, flourished for indefinite periods of time, and then become annihilated, no vestiges of MAN, or of his works, have been detected. Human skeletons naturally imbedded, have hitherto only been observed in the silt of modern alluvial plains, and in peat-bogs (*Wond.* p. 47.), and in conglomerates of recent date, which are still in the progress of formation on the sea-shores; particularly of those whose waters are loaded with the detritus of shells and corals, and discharge the calcareous matter on the