Owen has since established its generality in the entire marsupial series. In all these pouched quadrupeds, this process is turned inwards, as at c d, fig. 380, in the Brazilian opossum, whereas in the placental series, as at c, figs. 378 and 379, there is an almost entire absence of such inflection. The Tupaia Tana of Sumatra has been selected by my friend Mr. Waterhouse for this illustration, because that small insectivorous quadruped bears a great resemblance to those of the Stonesfield Amphitherium. By clearing away the matrix from the specimen of Amphitherium Prevostii above represented (fig. 375), Prof. Owen ascertained that the angular process (c) bent inwards in a slighter degree than in any of the known marsupialia; in short, the inflection does not exceed that of the mole or hedgehog. This fact turns the scale in favor of its affinities to the placental insectivora. Nevertheless, the Amphitherium offers some points of approximation in its osteology to the marsupials, especial; to the Myrmecobius, a small insectivorous quadruped of Australia, which has nine molars on each side of the lower jaw, besides a canine and three incisors.*

Another species of *Amphitherium* has been found at Stonesfield (fig. 376, p. 311), which differs from the former (fig. 375) principally in being larger.

The second mammiferous genus discovered in the same slates was named originally by Mr. Broderip Didelphys Bucklandi (see fig. 382),



Phascolotherium Bucklandi, Broderip, sp. a. Natural size. b. Molar of same magnified.

and has since been called *Phascolotherium* by Owen. It manifests a much stronger likeness to the marsupials in the general form of the jaw, and in the extent and position of its inflected angle, while the agreement with the living genus *Didelphys* in the number of the premolar and molar teeth is complete.[†]

On reviewing, therefore, the whole of the osteological evidence, it will be seen that we have every reason to presume that the Amplitherium and Phascolotherium of Stonesfield represent both the placental and marsupial classes of mammalia; and if so, they warn us in a most emphatic manner, not to found rash generalizations respecting the non-existence of certain classes of animals at particular periods of the past on mere negative evidence. The singular accident of our having as yet found nothing but the lower jaws of seven individuals, and no other bones of their skeletons, is alone sufficient to demonstrate the fragmentary manner in which the memorials of an ancient terrestrial fauna are handed down to us.

^{*} A figure of this recent Myrmccobius will be found in the Principles, chap. ix. † Owen's British Fossil Mammals. p. 62.