

COPROLITES OF THE LIAS.

LARGE coprolites of peculiar appearance, some of them charged with fish-scales of the ganoid order, are tolerably abundant; and they belonged, I have little doubt, to saurians. When bringing home with me, many years since, a well-marked specimen, I overtook by the way an acquaintance who had passed a considerable part of his life in Dutch Guiana. The thought did not at first occur to me of submitting to him my specimen. As we walked on together, he thrust his hand into his pocket to bring out his handkerchief, and brought out instead a large mass of damaged snuff. 'Ah,' he exclaimed, 'that roguish boy! I was standing with my neighbour the shopkeeper this morning, when he was opening up a cask of snuff that had got spoiled with sea-water; and his boy, seeing my pocket provokingly open I suppose, must have dropped in this huge lump! The joke seems a small one,' he continued, 'but it must be at least rather a natural one. The only other trick of the kind ever played me was by a South American Indian, on the banks of the Demerara: he dropped, unseen, into the pocket of my light nankeen jacket, a piece of sun-baked alligator's dung.' 'What sort of a looking substance was it?' I asked, uncovering my specimen, and submitting it to his examination; 'was it at all like that?' 'Not at all unlike,' was the reply; 'it bore an exactly similar pale yellow tint, as if, like the dung of our sea-birds that swallow and digest fish-bones, it contained abundance of lime; and it was sprinkled over, in the same way, with the glittering enamelled scales of that curious fish the bony pike, so common, as you are aware, in our South American rivers.'