

expressly recognised and excepted. 'Save,' says the author, 'in the dwarf and inferior forms of the marsupials and insectivora, not any of the honest mammals have yet appeared.'

But while attaching no importance to the discoveries in the Middle Purbeck, except in regard of more ample numerical development, it is necessary to admit the evidence of marsupials having been found lower than the Stonesfield or Great Oolite: even so far back as the Upper Trias, the Keuper Sandstone of Germany, which lies at the base of the Lias. I must be permitted, on this point, to quote the authority of Sir Roderick Murchison, as one of the safest and most cautious exponents of geological fact. 'In that deposit,' says he, referring to the Keuper Sandstone of Würtemberg, 'the relics of a solitary small marsupial mammal have been exhumed, which its discoverer, Plieninger, has named *Microlestes Antiquus*. Again, Dr. Ebenezer Emmons, the well-known geologist of Albany, in the United States, has described, from the lower beds of the Chatham Secondary Coal-field, North Carolina (of the same age as those of Virginia, and probably of the Würtemberg Keuper), the jaws of another minute mammal, which he calls *Dromotherium Sylvestre*. Lastly, *while I write*, Mr. C. Moore has detected in an agglomerate which fills the fissures of the carboniferous limestone near Frome, Somersetshire, the teeth of marsupial mammals, one of which he considers to be closely related to the *Microlestes Antiquus* of Germany, and Professor Owen confirms the fact. From that coincidence, and also from the association with other animal remains,—the Placodus (a reptile of the Muschelkalk), and certain mollusca,—Mr. Moore believes that