

troduced to birds of the Liassic ages that were scarce less gigantic than the roc of Sinbad the Sailor. They are fraught with strange meanings these foot-prints of the Connecticut. They tell of a time far removed into the by-past eternity, when great birds frequented by myriads the shores of a nameless lake, to wade into its shallows in quest of mail-covered fishes of the ancient type, or long-extinct molluscs ; while reptiles equally gigantic, and of still stranger proportions, haunted the neighbouring swamps and savannahs ; and when the same sun that shone on the tall moving forms beside the waters, and threw their long shadows across the red sands, lighted up the glades of deep forests, all of whose fantastic productions,—tree, bush, and herb,—have even in their very species long since passed away. And of this scene of things only the foot-prints remain,—“foot-prints on the sands of time,” that tell us, among other matters, whence the graceful American poet derived his quiet but singularly effective and unmistakeably indigenous figure :—

“Lives of great men all remind us  
 We can make our lives sublime,  
*And, departing, leave behind us*  
*Foot-prints on the sands of time.*  
 Foot-prints that perhaps another,  
 Sailing o’er life’s solemn main,  
 A forlorn and shipwreck’d brother,  
 Seeing, shall take heart again.”

With the Stonesfield slates,—a deposit which lies above what is known as the Inferior Oolite,—the remains of mammaliferous animals first appear. As, however, no other mammalian remains occur until after the close of the great Secondary Division, and as certain marked peculiarities attach to these Oolitic ones, it may be well to inquire whether their place, so far in advance of their fellows, may not be indicative of a radical difference of character,—a difference considerable enough to suggest to the zoologist an improvement in his scheme of classification. It has been shown by