

A P P E N D I X.

THE following brief explanations are here added for the benefit of the general reader.

I. GEOLOGICAL TIME.

The terms Paleozoic era, Oölitic period, and Glacial era or period, have been used in the preceding pages. The positions of these eras in geological history will be gathered from the following review of its principal divisions.

Geological history begins with what has been called *Azoic* time, *azoic* signifying the absence of all life. But the rocks supposed to be Azoic have been found to afford evidence of the existence of the simplest kinds of life during their formation; and the era they represent is, therefore, more correctly styled the *Archeozoic*, from the Greek for *beginning* and *life*.

The other grand subdivisions of geological time are as follows:

PALEOZOIC TIME (named from the Greek for *ancient life*), in the course of which the earliest Corals, Mollusks, Crustaceans, Insects, Fishes and Reptiles existed. It includes three Ages: (1), the *Silurian*; (2), the *Devonian*, or Age of Fishes; and (3), the *Carboniferous*, or Age of Coal-plants, when the most extensive beds of mineral coal of the world were originated.

2 MESOZOIC TIME, or that of *mediæval life*. It corresponds to the Age of Reptiles—being the era, not of the earliest reptiles, but that of their climax in number, size, and variety. This age is divided into three periods: first, or earliest, the Triassic; second, the Jurassic, to which the Oölitic era belongs; and, third, the Cretaceous, or that of the Chalk.

3. CENOZOIC TIME, or that of *recent life*, as the term signifies. It is modern in the aspect of its species, compared with the Mesozoic, and still more so compared with the Paleozoic. The highest and dominant species were *Mammals*, ending in Man.

Cenozoic time is divided into two Ages, the TERTIARY and the QUATERNARY. The Quaternary age, the last in the geological series, commences with the *Glacial* period, when, over Northern North America, vast quantities of stones, gravel and sand, were