over a very large part of the Europe of the present day, long before the Alps and the Pyrenees rose into mountain chains, and only a few islands formed of Palæozoic rocks stood above the waves. This surely was a striking phase of an older physical geography, which affected areas far wider than Europe alone, but which in the course of time came to an end in a manner which we shall presently see. To do so thoroughly we must consider the rocks of the continent for a little.

A vast lapse of time took place between the close of the deposition of the uppermost Cretaceous strata of England, and the commencement of the deposition of the succeeding Eocene formations, for in England we have no deposits of intermediate age. What, however, helps to prove this great hiatus is, that on the Meuse, at Maestricht, there is a calcareous formation about 100 feet thick, which lies unconformably on the Chalk, the line of unconformity being marked by a line of waterworn flint pebbles. Some of the fossils are of the same species with those found in the Chalk, and Cephalopoda of the genera Baculites and Hamites, not yet known in strata younger than the Cretaceous rocks of Europe, are found in the Maestricht beds. On the other hand, Volutes, and other genera of Tertiary type, are found in the strata, so that this marine fauna may be said to be of a type intermediate to those of the Cretaceous and Eocene epochs.

Extending for great distances round Paris, there are numerous small patches of pisolitic limestone, once united, but now separated by denudation. These contain some Cretaceous species, but many others are more Eocene than Cretaceous in their affinities.

At Faxoe also, in the Isle of Seeland, in Denmark, there is a yellow limestone so full of corals that it was