

same topographical characters, ranged from district to district, across wide regions. We have found that it was in countries of regular and gently-inclined stratified rocks that Lehmann and Fuchsel made their observations, which paved the way for the development of the idea of palæontological succession. We have now to trace the growth of this idea, and the discovery that organic remains furnish the clue to the relative chronology of the strata in which they are imbedded.

The fact that different rocks contain dissimilar but distinctive fossils had been noted by various observers long before its geological significance was perceived. Thus, as far back as 1671, we find Martin Lister affirming, in a letter already cited (p. 76), that "quarries of different stone yield us quite different sorts or species of shells not only one from another (as those Cockle-stones of the iron-stone quarries of Adderton, in Yorkshire, differ from those found in the lead-mines of the neighbouring mountains, and both these from the cockle-quarrie of Wansford Bridge, in Northamptonshire; and all three from those to be found in the quarries about Gunthrop and Beauvoir Castle, etc.), but, I dare boldly say, from anything in nature besides, that either the land, salt or freshwater doth yield us."¹

Again, John Strange writing in 1779 remarks that

¹ *Phil. Trans.* vol. vi. p. 2283. Greenough in his *Critical Examination of the First Principles of Geology*, 1819, (p. 284), in quoting this passage, adds that Lister had "followed the course of the Chalk Marl over an extensive tract of country by mere attention to its fossils," but no reference is given to the authority for this statement.