

sand, or more than ten times ten thousand years ago, all these vast intervals seem annihilated, time altogether disappears, and we are almost brought into as immediate contact with events of immeasurably distant periods, as with the affairs of yesterday.

## SECTION .VI.

### PLESIOSAURUS.\*

WE come next to consider a genus of extinct animals, nearly allied in structure to the Ichthyosaurus, and co-extensive with it through the middle ages of our terrestrial history. The discovery of this genus forms one of the most important additions that Geology has made to comparative anatomy. It is of the Plesiosaurus, that Cuvier asserts the structure to have been the most heteroclite, and its characters altogether the most monstrous, that have been yet found amid the ruins of a former world.† To the head of a Lizard, it united the teeth of a Crocodile; a neck of enormous length, resembling the body of a Serpent: a trunk and tail having the proportions of an ordinary quadruped, the ribs of a

\* See Pl. 16, 17, 18, 19.

† Cet habitant de l'ancien monde est peut-être la plus hétéroclite et celui de tous qui paroît le plus mériter le nom de monstre.  
—Oss. Foss. V. Pt. 2, p. 476.