

mination of the secondary formations ; when the Ichthyosauri and Plesiosauri became extinct, and forms of Crocodiles, approaching to the Cayman and the Alligator, were for the first time introduced.

SECTION XII.

FOSSIL TORTOISES, OR TESTUDINATA.

AMONG the existing animal population of the warmer regions of the earth, there is an extensive order of reptiles, comprehended by Cuvier under the name of Chelonians, or Tortoises. These are subdivided into four distinct families ; one inhabiting salt water, two others fresh water lakes and rivers, and a fourth living entirely upon the land. One of the most striking characters of this Order consists in the provision that is made for the defence of creatures, whose movements are usually slow and torpid, by inclosing the body within a double shield or cuirass, formed by the expansion of the vertebræ, ribs and sternum, into a broad bony case.

The small European Tortoise, *Testudo Græca*, and the eatable Turtle, *Chelonia Mydas*, are familiar examples of this peculiar arrangement both in terrestrial and aquatic reptiles ; in each