

case the shield affords compensation for the want of rapidity of motion to animals that have no ready means of escape by flight or concealment from their enemies. We learn from Geology that this Order began to exist nearly at the same time with the Order of Saurians, and has continued coextensively with them through the secondary and tertiary formations, unto the present time: their fossil remains present also the same threefold divisions that exist among modern Testudinata, into groups respectively adapted to live in salt and fresh water, and upon the land.

Animals of this Order have yet been found only in strata more recent than the carboniferous series.* The earliest example recorded by Cuvier, (*Oss. Foss.* Vol. 5, Pt. 2, p. 525), is that of a very large species of Sea Turtle, the shell of which was eight feet long, occurring in the Muschelkalk at Luneville. Another marine species has been found at Glaris, in slate referrible to the lower cretaceous formation. A third occurs in the upper cretaceous freestone at Maestricht. All these are associated with the remains of other animals that are marine; and though they differ both from living Turtles and from one another, they still exhibit such general accordance in

* The fragment from the Caithness slate, engraved in the *Geol. Trans. Lond.* V. iii. Pl. 16, Fig. 6, as portions of a trionyx, is pronounced by M. Agassiz to be part of a fish.