

zontal, or nearly so; a conclusion, to which the geologist would come, from evidence independent of the impressions.

I have stated, that often the tracks can be traced in regular succession: but this is by no means always the case. Sometimes different species of animals, and different individuals, have crossed one another's tracks so often, that all is confusion; and the whole surface appears to have been trodden over; as we often see to be the case, where quadrupeds, or ducks and geese resort, upon the muddy shores of a stream or pond. Fig. 10 exhibits a case of this kind on a specimen of sandstone in my possession from the Horse Race.

I trust I have proceeded far enough in these details, to justify me in coming to the conclusion, that these impressions are the tracks of birds, made while the incipient sandstone and shale were in a plastic state. This is the conclusion, to which the most common observer comes, at once, upon inspecting the specimens. But the geologist should be the last of all men to trust to first impressions. I shall, therefore, briefly state the arguments that sustain this conclusion.

1. These impressions are evidently the tracks of a biped animal. For I have not been able to find an instance, where more than a single row of impressions exists.

2. They could not have been made by any other known biped, except birds. On this point, I am happy to have the opinion of more than one distinguished zoologist.

3. They correspond very well with the tracks of birds. They have the same ternary division of their anterior part, as the feet of birds. Frequently, and perhaps always, the toes, like those of birds, are terminated by claws. If the toes are sometimes slender and sometimes thick and blunt, so are those of birds. If they are mostly wanting in the hind toe, so are many genera of birds, especially the *Grallæ*.

I am not aware that the tracks of living birds have been much noticed; and I regret that it has not been in my power to make more observations of this sort, than I have done. But so far as I have examined them, they bear a striking resemblance to the impressions under consideration. I was particularly struck with the resemblance at two of the quarries, that have been described; viz. at the back side of Mount Tom, and at the Horse Race. The rock at these places, passes under the river, whose waters have deposited a thin stratum of mud, just at the margin of the stream. Here in the summer, a few small species of *Grallæ*, particularly the snipes, resort for