

Indians, but a little reflection sufficed to show that they were beyond the efforts of those rude children of nature; since they evinced a skill, and fidelity of execution, which even my distinguished friend, Sir Francis Chantrey, could not have surpassed. No doubt exists in my mind, that these are the actual prints of human feet in soft sand, which was quickly converted into solid rock by the infiltration of calcareous matter, in the manner already described. The length of each foot is ten inches and a half, the spread of the toes four inches, indicating the usual stature; and the nature of the impression shows that the feet were unconfined by shoes or sandals. This phenomenon, unique of its kind, is fraught with so much importance, that I have requested Professor Silliman to ascertain the nature of the sandstone, and the period of its formation. Hereafter I shall have to direct your attention to impressions of another kind, in rocks of immense geological antiquity.

54. ISLE OF ASCENSION.—This island, which is a volcanic cone in the midst of the Atlantic, appears to have been a dome of trachytic rocks, subsequently affording vent to lava currents; and its shores are bounded by a conglomerate formed of sand with comminuted shells, corals, echini, and fragments of lava. In the suite of specimens before us are portions of this conglomerate in various states of consolidation. They are composed of corals, which still retain their colour; of shells, more or