

specimens will be found to possess considerable firmness and durability. By this process the tusks of mammoths and elephants may be restored, however much crushed; time, patience, and a little dexterity only are required, to convert a heap of mere fragments into a valuable relic of the ancient world.

When the bones are tolerably perfect, but very dry and friable from the loss of their animal oil, they may be made durable by saturating them with drying oil, and exposing them to a considerable degree of heat; in this manner the magnificent skeletons of the sloth tribe, the *Megatherium*, and *Mylodon*, in the Hunterian Museum, were prepared. When a bone appears as if cracked into numerous pieces before its removal, but still preserves its form, the only method by which it may be successfully extracted, is by putting over it a thick coating of plaster of Paris, which should be used of the consistence of cream; when it sets, (which, if the plaster be recently prepared, will be in the course of a few minutes,) the specimen may be carefully extricated from the stratum, and the plaster removed or not, according to the nature of the fossil, and the parts requiring to be displayed. The bones of the large reptiles which occur in the Wealden and Oolite, may be restored in the same manner. These remains, although generally petrified by an infiltration of iron, or calcareous spar, are very brittle, and when imbedded in hard grit cannot be extracted whole: they will often,