

Three highly interesting specimens of the Ornithichnites of North America, collected and developed by Dr. James Deane, have been lately added to the collection of organic remains in the British Museum. They exhibit several varieties of the foot-prints, and are in a very fine state of preservation. The surface of the largest slab is eight feet by six, and bears upwards of seventy distinct impressions, disposed in several tracks, as shown in the *Lignograph* 151.

I subjoin an extract from Dr. Deane's description of these slabs, and a representation of one of the small foot-prints, of the natural size, on a block of the stone, with the surface sprinkled with hemispherical markings produced by drops of rain.* (*Lign.* 150.)

“ It is rare to find a stratum containing these foot-prints exactly as they were impressed by the animals; for they are usually more or less distorted and obliterated by the soft nature of the mud, the coarseness of the materials, and other circumstances, which have partially defaced them; so that although the general form of the foot may be apparent, the minute traces of its appendages are almost invariably lost. In general, distinct evidence of the peculiar phalangeal structure of the toes of birds is wanting, and each toe appears to be formed of a single joint, without the terminal claw. But a few specimens have been discovered in which the true characters of the foot are clearly developed, with its rows of joints, and its claws, and integuments. So far as my observations extend, the sharpest impressions are on the shales of the finest

* From the American Journal of Science, Vol. XLVI. p. 73, December, 1843.