

4. THE LEFT HAND SIDE.

On the left hand side of the Section the strata are so divided as to correspond to the six great groups of animals and plants that have appeared on the globe. The names attached to the groups are derived from ζῶς, (*vivus*, living,) with the Greek numerals prefixed. The lowest group, being destitute of organic remains, is called *azoic*, (from *a* privitive and ζῶς,) that is, wanting in the traces of life; and corresponds to the crystalline group on the other side of the Section, embracing gneiss, mica slate, limestone, and clay slate, of unknown thickness. The *Protozoic group* corresponds to the Palæozoic of the right hand side, and embraces lower and upper Silurian, Devonian, or old red sandstone, the carboniferous group, and the Permian, or lower new red; the whole in Great Britain not less than thirty-three thousand feet thick. The *Deutozoic group* consists only of the triassic, or upper new red sandstone, and is only nine hundred feet thick, but marks a distinct period of life. The *Tritozoic* embraces the lias and oölite, with the Wealden, and is three thousand six hundred feet thick. The *Tetrazoic* consists of the chalk and green sand, one thousand five hundred feet thick. The *Pentezoic* embraces the tertiary strata of the thickness of two thousand feet. The *Hectozoic* is confined to the modern deposits, only a few hundred feet thick, but entombing all the existing species of animals.

5. CHARACTERISTIC ORGANIC REMAINS.

Had space permitted, I should have put upon the Section a reference to the most characteristic and peculiar mineral, animal, or plant, in the different groups. Thus the *Azoic group* is *crystalliferous*, or crystal-bearing. The lower or Silurian part of the *Protozoic group* is *brachiopodiferous*, *trilobiferous*, *polypiferous*, and *cephalopodiferous*; that is, abounding in brachiopod and cephalopod shells; in polypifers, or corals; and in trilobites, a family of crustaceans. The middle part, or the Devonian, is *thaumichthiferous*, or containing remarkable fish. The upper part, or the coal measures, is *carboniferous*; that is, abounding in coal. The *Deutozoic group* is *ichniferous*, or track-bearing, from the multitude of its fossil footmarks. The *Tritozoic group* is *reptiliferous*, or reptile-bearing, from the extraordinary lizards which abound in it. The *Tetrazoic* is *foraminiferous*, from the abundance of coral animalcula, called foraminifera, or polythalmia, which it contains. The *Pentezoic* is *mammaliferous*, because it contains the remains of mammalia, or quadrupeds. The *Hectozoic* is *homoniferous*, or man-bearing, because it embraces human remains.

There is no one place on earth where all the facts exhibited on this Section are presented before us together. Yet all the facts occur somewhere, and this Section merely brings them into systematic arrangement.