

CHAPTER XVI.

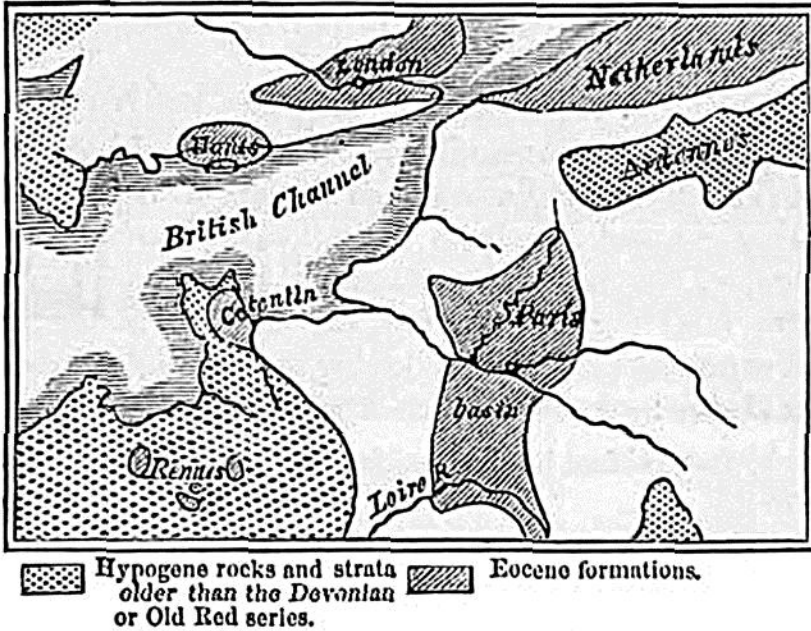
MIDDLE AND LOWER EOCENE FORMATIONS.

Middle Eocene strata of England—Fluvio-marine series in the Isle of Wight and Hampshire—Successive groups of Eocene Mammalia—Fossils of Barton Clay—Shells, mummulites, fishes, and reptiles of the Bagshot and Bracklesham beds—Lower Eocene strata of England—Fossil plants and shells of the London Clay proper—Strata of Kyson in Suffolk—Fossil monkey and opossum—Plastic clays and sands—Thanet sands—Middle Eocene formations of France—Gypseous series of Montmartre and extinct quadrupeds—Calcaire grossier—Miliolites—Lower Eocene in France—Nummulitic formations of Europe and Asia—Their wide extent; referable to the Middle Eocene period—Eocene strata in the United States—Section at Claiborne, Alabama—Colossal cetacean—Orbitoid limestone—Burr-stone.

THE strata next in order in the descending series are those which I term Middle Eocene. In the accompanying map, the position of several Eocene areas is pointed out, such as the basin of the Thames, part of

Fig. 181.

Map of the principal tertiary basins of the Eocene period.



N. B. The space left blank is occupied by secondary formations from the Devonian or old red sandstone to the chalk inclusive.

Hampshire, part of the Netherlands, and the country round Paris. The three last-mentioned areas contain some marine and freshwater formations, which have been already spoken of as Upper Eocene, but their superficial extent in this part of Europe is insignificant.

ENGLISH MIDDLE EOCENE FORMATIONS.

The following table will show the order of succession of the strata found in the Tertiary areas, commonly called the London and Hampshire basins. (See also Table, p. 104, *et seq.*)