

wonderful mesozoic time, behold a real bird on the wing. Clothed with proper feathers and constituted a bird, it is yet reptilian. Its long and lizard-like tail, vertebrated to the extremity, is furnished with proper quills, but can not conceal its kinship with the reptiles. It comes out of the empire of reptiles and brings reminiscences of the reptiles with it.

A higher type is now standing at the threshold of being. A knell is sounding the funeral of the reptilian dynasty. The saurian hordes shrink away before the approach of a superior being. After a splendid reign, the dynasty of reptiles crumbles to the ground, and we know it only from the history written in its ruins.

XLIV. MAMMALIAN RULE.

CÆNOZOIC TIMES.

THE striking figures which appealed to our wonder during our walk through the Mesozoic Æon, diverted attention from some very humble but very suggestive creatures which managed to elude the dangers threatening them under a rule which knew only cruelty and extermination. These creatures were little mammals. Only one species is known to have existed in America; and we are indebted to Professor Emmons for bringing to light its remains in the red sandstone of North Carolina. The lower jaw is armed with a series of teeth somewhat like those of the common mole. It seems, therefore, to have been insectivorous. Its nearest relative among living mammals is the *Banded Anteater* of Australia, a small animal with a fox-like appearance. We call it *Drom-a-the-ri-um*, or "Running-beast." It is singular that a very similar mammal lived in the same age in the Old World. Some of its remains have been found at Würtemberg, and others, at Frome, England. Another Triassic mammal has recently been described by Professor Owen from South Africa, as large as a gray fox, and remarkably specialized. All these mammals are most distinctly mammalian. They do not look like