http://www.geology.19thcenturyscience.org/books/Bridgewater-Treatises/index.html

gone. Every one must have seen that the crust of the earth is formed in strata or layers: and very slight consideration leads also to the belief that it has been subject to great convulsions as well as to successive deposits or formations. Each of these layers is to a certain degree distinct in the chemical composition, in the fracture and external character, but chiefly in the nature of the animal remains which are buried in it.

Of these strata, some are distinguished by containing the bones of large animals: and it is by attending to the forms and processes of these bones, that by far the most interesting conclusions, in the whole range of this new science, may be drawn. A very short account of the successive deposits, forming the different strata, will serve to illustrate the importance of the anatomy of the animals which have the true bony skeleton, to the geologist. The last grand revolution has formed a surface to the earth, in which strata, of every condition, have been exposed. And indeed, we might say that such exposure, by laying open the riches of the earth as well as furnishing the mixed soil for vegetation, has been the end of this revolution. At all events, the variety of objects disclosed on the surface tends to confound the enquirer: and, therefore, we must shortly recapitulate what has been discovered by the investigations of scientific and ingenious men in our time.

Without hazarding conjectures on the eleva-