

**RELIQUIÆ CONSERVATÆ, FROM THE
PRIMITIVE MATERIALS OF OUR PRESENT
GLOBE, WITH POPULAR DESCRIPTIONS
OF THE PROMINENT CHARACTERS OF
SOME REMARKABLE FOSSIL ENCRINITES,
AND THEIR CONNECTING LINKS**

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Reliquiæ Conservatæ, from the Primitive Materials of Our Present Globe, with Popular Descriptions of the Prominent Characters of Some Remarkable Fossil Encrinites, and Their Connecting Links by George Cumberland

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GEORGE CUMBERLAND

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v. S.H. 1827.

RELIQUIÆ CONSERVATÆ,

FROM THE

PRIMITIVE MATERIALS OF OUR PRESENT GLOBE,

WITH POPULAR

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE PROMINENT CHARACTERS
OF SOME REMARKABLE FOSSIL.

ENCRINITES,

AND THEIR CONNECTING LINES.

1. THE BRADFORD, OR PEAR ENCRINUS.
2. THE TORTOISE ENCRINUS.
3. THE SITULARIA TRIANGULARIFORMIS.
4. THE MITRA. A NEW GENUS.
5. THE AMPHORA. A NEW SPECIES.

Illustrated by Sixty-six Figures.

If Fossils are justly denominated, we find harmony and pleasure in the science.
Bergman.

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THE object of the Author is to excite attention to the relics of a former creation, by simplifying the language employed in description, so as to render the study popular and alluring; and by specifying their precise localities, to afford the means of enriching the Cabinets of Geological collectors, in a science calculated to discover the features of each Stratum of the Earth, the true indexes of valuable materials in the economy of existence.

Technical language has therefore been as much as possible avoided, and the greatest attention paid to exhibiting faithful representations of the individual forms of the fossils selected, belonging to a class that are exceedingly rare, and but little understood.

The source from whence these figures will be taken, contains nearly all the known varieties of Encrini and Pentacrini, and is equally rich in other extraneous fossils; but, as many of our contemporaries may possess examples tending still further to elucidate specific character, we shall consider ourselves obliged by their communication, and with pleasure add correct figures of them to our own.

Note.—Collectors of extraneous Fossil bodies, who are studious of this branch of Natural History, will at all times be welcome to inspect Mr. CUMBERLAND'S Cabinet; and any one possessed of perfect Specimens, which they are desirous of disposing of, will find in him a ready purchaser; or, if more agreeable, by the exchange of duplicates.

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INTRODUCTION.

THAT intellectual spiritual power which Reason, instructed by Revelation, has taught us to know and reverence as *the Supreme*, has created and endowed us with minds capable of reflection from his own; that is, furnished with such a portion of the ineffable principle of thought and the spiritual quality of mind as is suitable to our present circumstances, and necessary for improving our condition both here and hereafter.

And this is demonstrated from our conduct: for by the just importance we annex to Theology, and the invention of Astronomy and the abstruser sciences, we, as far as we can, endeavour to approach *Omniscience*; by Geometry, Geography, and Geology, *Omnipresence*; and, by Mechanics and Chemistry, to attain as much power over the material Elements of Nature as our limited intelligence is permitted to obtain when sighing after *Omnipotence*. We are indued also with the imaginative and procreative powers, but restrained in their exercise by impenetrable barriers: yet unhappily, highly as he is constituted, Man has (in the error of his understanding, upheld by the pride of his corrupted nature,) often mistaken his proper offices and forgotten his origin, attributing to the organic matter of his frame (which is destined to resolve itself into its primary elements) all the power and operations that belong alone to mind and

iv.

spirit. And because he has been permitted, by the exercise of thought, to comprehend so much of the organization of the universe as is necessary to his well being,—he has assumed, in his folly and arrogance, the importance of a self dependant creature; presuming to act as if *prescience* was an attribute of his existence, until called back to self knowledge and humility by the exhibition of divine power and justice. Numerous instances of which, Tradition and History afford; but the most striking example on record is the universal Deluge, of which the surface of the earth bears testimony, and Geology, or the study of its exterior, comes now in aid of that early tradition and record.

But Geology (a science induced by our necessities) is, in our times, permitted to disclose other truths calculated to confirm in us the belief of the goodness and power of the Creator; and to shew us that Matter fluctuates under his direction in form and quality; and that *nothing is unchangeable but Spirit*. That the Earth which sustains the life of human beings, is as liable to mutation of form as our own structure, and as capable of complete renovation, or restitution, after being reduced to an inert state by the decree of the supreme incomprehensible intellect.

Viewing the subject of Geology in this light, as a fair inference from reasoning, will give to our collections of the organic remains of the globe considerable importance; for it appears, by experimental examination, that these bodies constitute a great part of the matter of all that has been by theorists termed secondary Strata, such as Limestone, Sandstone, Chalk, &c.; and hence we draw a fair conclusion, that in the great event of the creation or reformation of the globe, they consisted of the decom-

posed chaotic materials of a former world, disorganized by the fiat of that Omnipotent Spirit who governs all plastic matter, and can, by his *word*, re-organize it for his own wise but inscrutable purposes.

Why these fossil remains, the types of our recent things, which the decomposition of Strata discloses to us continually, do not *exactly* resemble somewhat similar ones, which we term *recent*, as possessing active existence, it will not be in the power of man to answer; but we may be permitted to conjecture, (reasoning from the results of former disclosures from scientific researches), that it was to make known to us *that former worlds had existed, and had been destroyed*; so as to confirm more intensely the rational belief of the immensity of that power which could vary its creations infinitely from the same material.

Hence I conclude, that the best use we can make of our discoveries in this branch of natural history will be, to display their wonderful variety, by exhibiting their precise forms, so as to make evident their actual structure and present localities.

For these things are the *Hieroglyphics of Nature*, which, well understood, point to the initiated, the concealed wealth which she has deposited in the bowels of the earth for the use of men in every age of their existence; and which is become more especially necessary to them, now that the multiplication of the species has increased their wants; evincing to every thinking mind the affectionate care of the Supreme Creator to provide for the existence of those whom he has destined to partake, for a period, of human life and its important duties.

If therefore we would fix the seal of stability on our