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Richard Owen

Frontmatter

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Palaeontology

Richard Owen (1804–1892) was a contemporary of Darwin, and like him, attended the University of Edinburgh medical school but left without completing his training. His career as an outstanding palaeontologist began when he was cataloguing the Hunterian Collection of human and animal anatomical specimens which had passed to the Royal College of Surgeons in London. His public lectures on anatomy were attended by Darwin, and he was entrusted with the classification and description of the fossil vertebrates sent back by Darwin from the Beagle voyage. He was responsible for coining many of the terms now used in anatomy and evolutionary biology, including the word ‘dinosaur’. Palaeontology (published in 1860) defines, describes and classifies all the fossil animal forms then known, and discusses the origin of species, commenting on the theories of Buffon, Lamarck, the then anonymous author of Vestiges of Creation, Wallace and Darwin.

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Palaeontology

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PALÆONTOLOGY

OR

A SYSTEMATIC SUMMARY OF EXTINCT ANIMALS

AND

THEIR GEOLOGICAL RELATIONS.

BY

RICHARD OWEN, F.R.S.

Superintendent of the Natural History Departments in the British Museum,
Fullerian Professor of Physiology in the Royal Institution of Great Britain,
Foreign Associate of the Institute of France, etc.

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MDCCCLX.

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TABLE OF STRATA AND ORDER OF APPEARANCE OF ANIMAL LIFE
UPON THE EARTH.

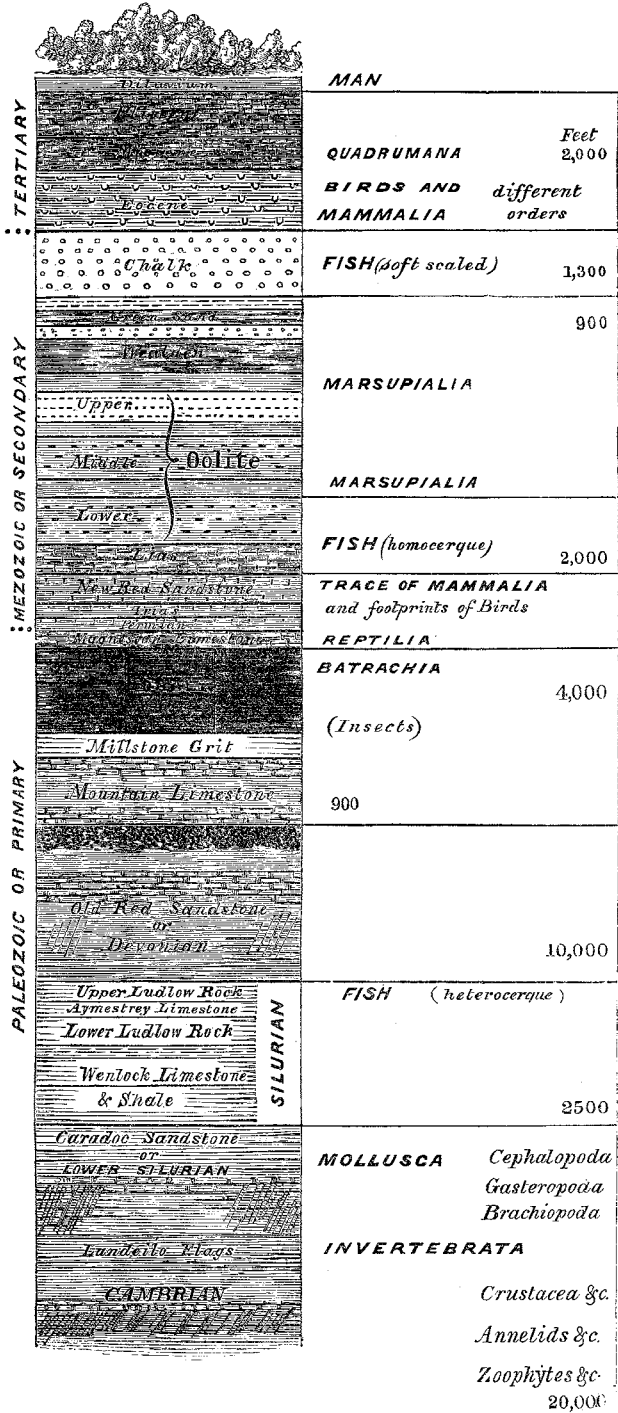


Fig. 1.