

ried away by the neighboring farmers for manure. Ever since the formation of the present coast-line, this natural wear has been arresting, tide after tide, its heaps of organic matter, but the circumstances favorable to their preservation have been wanting: they ferment and decay when driven high on the beach; and the next spring-tide, accompanied by a gale from the west, sweeps every vestige of them away; and so, after the lapse of many centuries, we find no other organisms among the rounded pebbles that form the beach of this little bay, than merely a few broken shells, and occasionally a mouldering fish-bone. Thus very barren formations may belong to periods singularly rich in organic existences. When what is now the little bay was the bottom of a profound ocean, and far from any shore, the circumstances for the preservation of its organisms must have been much more favorable. In no locality in the Old Red Sandstone with which I am acquainted have such beautifully preserved fossils been found. But I anticipate.

In the middle of the little bay, and throughout the greater part of its area, I found the rock exposed — a circumstance which I had marked many years before, when a mere boy, without afterwards recurring to it as one of interest. But I had now learned to look at rocks with another eye and the thought which first suggested itself to me regarding the rock of the little bay was, that I had found the especial object of my search — the Lias. The appearances are in some respects not dissimilar. The Lias of the north of Scotland is represented in some localities by dark-colored, unctuous clays, in others by grayish black sandstones, that look like indurated mud, and in others by beds of black fissile shale, alternating with bands of coarse, impure limestone, and studded between the bands with limestone nodules of richer