

Cromarty, Sutherland, Caithness, and the Orkney Islands, consists of exactly the same number of great divisions as this system of the western coast. That subordinate Red Sandstone of the western system which has been colored as *Old Red* in every geological map of Scotland ever published, and which extends, in an interrupted belt, from Eilan Garbh, beyond Cape Wrath, to the Island of Rum, a distance of more than a hundred and twenty miles, corresponds in place to the Great Conglomerate of the east coast,—a deposit equally continuous. The lower quartz bed which overlies the red sandstone we find occupying exactly the place of a thick arenaceous bed, by which, on the east coast, the Great Conglomerate is overlaid. The stratified limestones, with their associated flagstones and marbles, occupy exactly the place of the flagstones and associated limestones of Caithness, and the stratified, semi-calcareous, nodule-bearing clays of Cromarty and Ross. And, finally, we see the vast upper quartz deposit of the west occupying exactly the place of that thick deposit of sandstone, red, white, and yellow, which overlies the ichthyolitic flagstones and stratified clays of the east, and which may be found immensely developed in the Ward-hill of Hoy, and in the promontories of Dunnet-head, Cannisbay, and Tarbet-ness. Bed for bed, the two systems correspond not only in number, but in character and place; for even the quartz-rock beds that are altered most cannot be regarded as other than indurated beds of quartzose sandstone. Let me further remark, that both systems rest unconformably on the same ancient rock,—the fundamental gneiss of the country. Were the systems not indentical, we would have to account for the curious fact, that, resting on apparently the same rock, the number, character, and relative position of their beds should also be the same,—a contingency, regarded simply as such, that would exhaust many chances. Why, for instance, should the stratified limestone and flagstone