

northern parts of Sutherland is found overlaying its quartz rock; and "this relation of quartz rock of undoubted mechanical origin to highly crystalline gneiss is a fact," remarks Professor James Nicol, in his "Guide to the Geology of Scotland," "of considerable importance, though merely what might have been anticipated on the metamorphic theory." I visited, two years ago, the district near Whiton Head, in which the sections occur that are said most thoroughly to demonstrate this superiority of the gneiss to the quartz rock, but was prevented from examining them by a tract of wet and very boisterous weather. There seems, however, to be a link wanting in the evidence, in its bearing on the matter specially in hand,—the position of the Assynt deposits. The gneiss of the Moin,—a dreary waste, that stretches between Loch Eriboll and the Kyle of Tongue,—*does* seem to overlie the quartz rock of Whiton Head, just as in many other localities genuine gneiss holds, on the small scale, a superior position to genuine quartz rock; but it has, perhaps, still to be shown that the quartz rock here is at all of the same age, or occupies relatively the same place, as that which in Assynt overlies the calcareous flagstones, and forms the summit of Ben More. The nearest Red Sandstone to the gneiss and underlying quartz rock of Whiton Head is that of Craig na Vrechan, at Tongue; and *it* very decidedly *overlies* the gneiss. But this special point I do not profess to have examined.

In conclusion let me remark, that while, from the reasons adduced, I have been led to conclude that the sandstone deposit of the west of Sutherland, with its associated quartz rock and limestone beds, represents the Lower Old Red Sandstone of the eastern coast, I do not regard the conclusion as founded on other than merely a strong probability. In speculating on the true place of a deposit in which fossils do not occur, and whose stratigraphical relations to the well-known