

the curious fresh-water or estuary deposit of Loch Staffin, described in the "Geological Journal" for 1851, by the late Professor Edward Forbes. There is a patch of Lias on the shores of Loch Aline, exceedingly rich in some of the characteristic organisms of the formation, which I would fain have examined with some care, but wanted the necessary opportunity. From deposits partially overflowed by the Trap of Mull, and which crop out along the eastern shores of that Island, I have exhumed specimens that bear in the group an Oolitic aspect; and in spending a few hours in the Island of Pabba, when the yacht, my home for the time, was cruising in the offing, I found in it such promise of a rich fossil harvest, that when a young friend, — Mr. Archibald Geikie, — requested me last year to point out to him some one or two centres from which I thought he might best acquaint himself with our Scottish Lias of the western coast, I ventured to recommend the latter island, and the southern portion of the neighboring Bay of Broadford, as two of the most promising. Mr. Geikie, — in whom our Society may, I trust, recognize a future member, — found his way to Pabba, — introduced himself to the sole family resident on the island, — slept, I believe, in a barn, — lived on potatoes and milk, — and brought away with him an interesting suite of fossils. And after this manner must the Hebrides, and the Western Highlands be explored. The Oolitic beds of the eastern coast are considerably more accessible than those of the west. The Lias of Eathie, near Cromarty, is one of the richest deposits in animal remains which I have anywhere seen; and it has yielded several unique fossils, — such as the broad-spiked leaflets of some ancient tree attached to a stem of a twelvemonth's growth, that yields to the microscope, in a prepared section, the coniferous tissue, — cones of unique structure, — a well-marked frond of *Zamia* of an undescribed species, — numerous ammonites in a fine state of preservation, — and one of the com-