

substance of what is important in the several prefaces alluded to is incorporated with this.

“The Old Red Sandstone” was Hugh Miller’s first geological work, and was first published in 1841. In 1842, a second edition was called for. This contained about fifteen pages of new matter, referring chiefly to the least known portion of the Old Red system — that middle formation to which the organisms of Balruddery and Carmyle belong. A print (Plate XI.) illustrative of this portion of the work was also added, and one or two conjectures were made to give place to the facts at which they pointed.

A third edition was issued in 1846. In the preface to that edition, Mr. Miller announced that the bold prediction made by him in the first,—that the ichthyolites of the Old Red Sandstone would be found at least equal to those of all the geological formations united, at the death of Cuvier,—was already more than fulfilled. For, while Cuvier had enumerated but ninety-two species of fossil fishes in all, Agassiz had already, in 1846, enumerated one hundred and five in the Old Red Sandstone alone,—a formation which had been regarded as poorer in organisms than any other. The catalogue of species in that formation, as determined and arranged by Agassiz, was given in this edition. Many additions to the volume in the form of notes were also made, and in several instances the text was modified. It had been stated in the first two editions that a gradual increase of size was observable in the progress of ichthyolitic life, and that the Old Red System exhibited, in its successive formations, this gradation of bulk, beginning with an age of dwarfs, and ending with an age of giants. When the third edition was issued, it had been ascertained that there were giants among the dwarfs; the remains of one of the largest fishes found anywhere in the system had