

known localities, would have occupied fewer pages, and would have been thrown off with, perhaps, less regard to minute detail than to pictorial effect. May I crave, while addressing myself, now to the one class, and now to the other, the alternate forbearance of each?

Such is the state of progression in geological science, that the geologist who stands still for but a very little, must be content to find himself left behind. Nay, so rapid is the progress, that scarce a geological work passes through the press in which some of the statements of the earlier pages have not to be modified, restricted, or extended in the concluding ones. The present volume shares, in this respect, in what seems the common lot. In describing the *Coccosteus*, the reader will find it stated that the creature, unlike its contemporary the *Pterichthys*, was unfurnished with arms. Ere arriving at such a conclusion, I had carefully examined at least a hundred different *Coccostei*; but the positive evidence of one specimen outweighs the negative evidence of a hundred; and I have just learned from a friend in the north, (Mr. Patrick Duff, of Elgin,) that a *Coccosteus* lately found at Lethen-bar, and now in the possession of Lady Gordon Cumming, of Altyre, is furnished with what seem uncouth, paddle-shaped arms, that project from the head.* All that I

* As these paddle-shaped arms have not been introduced by Agassiz into his restoration of the *Coccosteus*, their existence, at least as arms, must still be regarded as problematical. There can be no doubt