PAGE

North of Scotland girdled by an immense Belt of Old Red Sandstone. — Line of the Girdle along the Coast. — Marks of vast Denudation. — Its Extent partially indicated by Hills on the western Coast of Ross-shire. — The System of great Depth in the North of Scotland. — Difficulties in the Way of estimating the Thickness of Deposits. — Peculiar Formation of Hill. — Illustrated by Ben Nevis. — Caution to the Geological Critic. — Lower Old Red Sandstone immensely developed in Caithness. — Sketch of the Geology of that County. — Its strange Group of Fossils. — their present Place of Sepulture. — Their ancient Habitat. — Agassiz. — Amazing Progress of Fossil Iehthyology during the last few Years. — Its Nomenciature. — Learned Names repel unlearned Readers. — Not a great deal in them,

## CHAPTER III

Lamarck's Theory of Progression illustrated. — Class of Facts which give Color to it. — The Credulity of Unbelief. — M. Maillet and his Fish-birds. — Gradation not Progress. — Geological Argument. — The Present incomplete without the Past. — Intermediate Links of Creation. — Organisms of the Lower Old Red Sandstone. — The Pterichthys. — Its first Discovery. — Mr. Murchison's Decision regarding it. — Confirmed by that of Agassiz. — Description. — The several Varieties of the Fossil yet discovered. — Evidence of violent Death in the Attitudes in which they are found. — The Coccostous of the Lower Old Red. — Description. — Gradations from Crustacea to Fishes. — Habits of the Coccostous. — Scarcely any Conception too extravagant for Nature to realize . 35-54