

amount of waste and degradation that they have undergone since that ancient time, and we may be sure that it was surrounded by seas of this lower Mesozoic epoch, for fragments of the Oolitic strata still surround the island. This was the larger land, from which the rivers flowed that deposited the fresh-water sands described above. On the low banks of these rivers grew many a plant now represented merely by indistinct impressions—

‘Their meaning lost,  
Save what remains on stone, or fragments vast’—

in which the relics of species of *Araucaria*, *Cycus*, *Zamia*, *Screw Pine*, and numerous other forms, together with gigantic *Equisetums* which grew in the still waters on their borders, while Marsupial mammals on the shores, and Trigonæ and Terebratulæ in the seas, help us to realise that the physical characteristics of the time in some degree resembled that of Australia in our own day, a circumstance first noticed by Professor Owen.

This state of affairs was at length partly brought to an end by a gradual submergence, during which the Oxford and Kimeridge Clays were deposited in open seas, but the sinking of the area was not by any means so great as to swallow up the old islands round which the strata were formed, and which still remain, much changed, as the most lofty portions of Great Britain. Such fragments of the Jurassic strata as still remain on the coasts of Scotland throw some light on this question.

On the east of Scotland, at and near Brora, in Sutherland, the Liassic and Oolitic strata have been long known, and were first described in the Journal of the Geological Society in 1858 by Mr. (afterwards)