

at Dunrobin, and the younger at and near Helmsdale. A great fault, nearly 20 miles in length, runs along the shore, and throws the secondary strata down against the older Palæozoic rocks on the north-west. Interstratified with the black shales near Helmsdale, there are occasional beds of brecciated conglomerate. The shales contain thin layers of plants and many broken shells, and the breccias contain angular and subangular blocks, chiefly of Old Red Sandstone, with a mixture of the older rocks of the Highlands, sometimes 6 or 8 feet in diameter, in fact, boulder beds, which long ago suggested to me the action of floating ice. Mr. Judd suggests that they may be due to river ice, floated on streams flowing from the west, at a time when the larger part of the gneiss of the Highlands was covered by Old Red Sandstone, since denuded.

In the Inner Hebrides, the Lias, Inferior Oolite, Middle Oolite and Oxford Clay occur in the Island of Skye. The Lias, as described by Geikie, consists of beds of limestone, sandstone, conglomerate, and shale. It contains the usual fossils. The rocks are much disturbed, and the limestones have been metamorphosed into crystalline marble accompanied by the intrusion of syenite. The section at Loch Staffin, given by Edward Forbes, is as follows:—

Oxford Clay.	Inferior Oolite.
Estuary Shales.	Lias.
Middle Oolite.	

Between the Middle Oolite and estuary shales, a bed of columnar basalt is intercalated, and the whole is overlaid by amygdaloidal trap, which breaks through and overspreads the strata. These igneous rocks are intrusive and of Miocene age. The estuary shales contain *Oysters*, *Unios*, *Cyrenas*, *Paludinas*, &c., distinct