

Dr. Hope and the Irish geologist. "It was arranged that the party should go to Salisbury Crags, to show Dr. Richardson a junction of the sandstone with the trap, which was regarded as an instructive example of that class of facts. After reaching the spot, Sir James pointed out the great disturbance that had taken place at the junction, and particularly called the attention of the doctor to a piece of sandstone which had been whirled up during the convulsion and enclosed in the trap. When Sir James had finished his lecture, the doctor did not attempt to explain the facts before him on any principle of his own, nor did he recur to the shallow evasion of regarding the enclosed sandstone as contemporaneous with the trap; but he burst out into the strongest expressions of contemptuous surprise that a theory of the earth should be founded on such small and trivial appearances! He had been accustomed, he said, to look at Nature in her grandest aspects, and to trace her hand in the gigantic cliffs of the Irish coast; and he could not conceive how opinions thus formed could be shaken by such minute irregularities as those which had been shown to him. The two Huttonian philosophers were confounded; and, if we recollect rightly, the weight of an acre of florin and the number of bullocks it would feed formed the remaining subjects of conversation."¹

It is not needful to follow into further detail the history of the opposition encountered by the Huttonian theory of the earth. Some of the bitterest antagonists of Hutton hailed from Ireland. Besides Richardson, with his fossiliferous basalt, there was Kirwan, President

¹ *Edinburgh Review*, No. lxxv. 1837, p. 9.