

enclosed than in *every* other geologic system in England, Scotland, and Wales, from the Coal Measures to the Chalk inclusive. Orkney is emphatically, to the geologist, what a juvenile Shetland poetess designates her country, in challenging for it a standing independent of the "Land of Cakes," — a "Land of Fish;" and, were the trade once fairly opened up, could supply with ichthyolites, by the ton and the ship-load, the museums of the world. Its various deposits, with all their strange organisms, have been uptilted from the bottom against a granitic axis, rather more than six miles in length by about a mile in breadth, which forms the great back-bone of the western district of Pomona; and on this granitic axis — fast jammed in between a steep hill and the sea — stands the town of Stromness. Situated thus *at the bottom* of the upturned deposits of the island, it occupies exactly such a point of observation as that which the curious eastern traveller would select, in front of some huge pyramid or hieroglyphic-covered obelisk, as a proper site for his tent. It presents, besides, not a few facilities for studying, with the geological phenomena, various interesting points in physical science of a cognate character. Resting on its granitic base, *in front* of the strangely sculptured pyramid of three broad tiers, — red, black, and gray, — which the Old Red Sandstone of these islands may be regarded as forming, it is but a short half mile from the Great Conglomerate base of the formation, and scarcely a quarter of a mile more from the older beds of its central flagstone deposit; while an hour's sail on the one hand opens to the explorer the overlying arenaceous deposit of Hoy, and an hour's walk on the other introduces him to the Loch of Stennis, with its curiously mixed flora and fauna. But of the Loch of Stennis and its productions more anon.