

4. *Witness* newspaper, the principal metropolitan organ of the Free Church. The great success which this journal has met with is owing, doubtless, to the fine articles, political, ecclesiastical, and geological, which Mr. Miller has written for it. In the few leisure hours which so engrossing an occupation has allowed him to enjoy, he has devoted himself to the ardent prosecution of scientific inquiries; and we trust the time is not far distant when the liberality of his country, to which he has done so much honor, will allow him to give his whole time to the prosecution of science.

Geologists of high character had believed that the Old Red Sandstone was defective in organic remains; and it was not till after ten years' acquaintance with it that Mr. Miller discovered it to be *richly fossiliferous*. The labors of other ten years were required to assign to its fossils their exact place in the scale.

Among the fossils discovered by our author, the *Pterichthys* or winged fish is doubtless the most remarkable. He had disinterred it so early as 1831, but it was only in 1838 that he "introduced it to the acquaintance of geologists." It was not till 1831 that Mr. Miller began to receive assistance in his studies from without. In the appendix to Messrs. Anderson of Inverness's admirable *Guide to the Highlands and Islands of Scotland*, which "he perused with intense interest," he found the most important information respecting the geology of the North of Scotland; and during a correspondence with the accomplished authors of that work, many of his views were developed, and his difficulties removed. In 1838, he communicated to Dr. Malcolmson of Madras, then in Paris, a drawing and description of the *Pterichthys*. His letter was submitted to Agassiz, and subsequently a restored drawing was communicated to the Elgin Scientific Society. The great naturalist, as well as the members of the provincial society, were surprised at the new form of life which Mr. Miller had disclosed, and some of them, no doubt, regarded it with a sceptical eye. "Not many months after, however, a true *bona fide Pterichthys* was turned up in one of the newly-discovered beds of Nairnshire." In his last visit to Scotland, Agassiz found six species of the *Pterichthys*, three of which, and the wings of a fourth, were in Mr. Miller's collection.

This remarkable animal has less resemblance than any other fossil of the Old Red Sandstone to anything that now exists. When first brought to view by the single blow of a hammer, there appeared on a ground of light-colored limestone the effigy of a creature, fashioned apparently out of jet, with a body covered with plates, two powerful looking arms articulated at the shoulders, a head as en-