

the one rising in beautiful progression over the other. Let the reader imagine a digest of English history, complete from the times of the invasion of Julius Cæsar to the reign of that Harold who was slain at Hastings, and from the times of Edward III. down to the present day, but bearing no record of the Williams, the Henrys, the Edwards, the John, Stephen, and Richard, that reigned during the omitted period, or of the striking and important events by which their several reigns were distinguished. A chronicle thus mutilated and incomplete would be no unapt representation of a geological history of the earth in which the period of the Upper Silurian would be connected with that of the Mountain Limestone, or of the limestone of Burdie House, and the period of the Old Red Sandstone omitted.

The eastern and western coasts of Scotland, which lie to

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Fifeshire, where it crops out from beneath the Coal formation, and spreads into the adjoining northern half of Forfarshire; forming, together with trap, the Sidlaw Hills and valley of Strathmore. A large belt of this formation skirts the northern borders of the Grampians, from the seacoast at Stonehaven and the Frith of Tay to the opposite western coast of the Frith of Clyde. In Forfarshire, where, as in Herefordshire, it is many thousand feet thick, it may be divided into three principal masses — 1st. Red and mottled marls, cornstone, and sandstone; 2d. Conglomerate, often of vast thickness; 3d. Tiles, stones, and paving-stone, highly micaceous, and containing a slight admixture of carbonate of lime. In the uppermost of these divisions, but chiefly in the lowest, the remains of fish have been found, of the genus named by M. Agassiz *Cephalaspis*, or buckler-headed, from the extraordinary shield which covers the head, and which has often been mistaken for that of a trilobite of the division *Asaphus*. A gigantic species of fish, of the genus *Holoptychius*, has also been found by Dr. Fleming in the Old Red Sandstone of Fifeshire." — Lyell's *Elements*, p. 452-4. (See Note A.)