

district. A deposit in one locality may be found to possess many times the thickness of the same deposit in another. There are exposed, beside the Northern and Southern Sutors of Cromarty, two nearly vertical sections of the coarse conglomerate bed, which forms, as I have said, in the north of Scotland, the base of the Old Red System, and which rises to so great an elevation in the mountain of Morvheim. The sections are little more than a mile apart; and yet, while the thickness of this bed in the one does not exceed one hundred feet, that of the same bed in the other somewhat exceeds two hundred feet. More striking still — under the Northern Sutor, the entire Geology of Caithness, with all its vast beds, and all its numerous fossils, from the granitic rock of the Ord hill, the southern boundary of the county, to the uppermost sandstones of Dunnet-head, its extreme northern corner, is exhibited in a vertical section not more than three hundred yards in extent. And yet so enormous is the depth of the deposit in Caithness, that it has been deemed by a very superior geologist to represent three entire formations — the Old Red System, by its unfossiliferous, arenaceous, and conglomerate beds; the Carboniferous System, by its dark-colored middle schists, abounding in bitumen and ichthyolites; and the New Red Sandstone, by the mottled marls and mouldering sandstones that overlie the whole.\* A slight sketch of the Geology of Caithness may not be deemed uninteresting. This county includes, in the state of greatest development

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\* Dr. Hibbert, whose researches among the limestones of Burdie House have been of such importance to Geology, was of this opinion. I find it also expressed in the admirable geological appendix affixed by the Messrs. Anderson to their *Guide to the Highlands and Islands of Scotland*. “No beds of real coal,” say these gentlemen, “have been discovered in Caithness; and it would thus appear that the middle