

at Cromarty, instead of those of Caithness and Gamrie, he might have employed the same terms, and remarked the same circumstances — the striated nodules, the mineral tar, the vegetable impressions, the absence of shells and zoöphytes, the large-scaled, and double-finned ichthyolites — the peculiarities of which applied equally to the *Dipterus* and *Diplopterus* — and the supposed tortoise, in which I once recognized the *Cocosteus*. It was much to know, that this doubtful formation — for as doubtful I still regarded it — was of such considerable extent, and occurred in localities so widely separated. I corresponded with the courteous author of the appendix, at that time General Secretary to the Northern Institution for the Promotion of Science and Literature, and Conservator of its Museum; and, forwarding to him duplicates of some of my better specimens, had, as I had anticipated, the generic identity of the Cromarty ichthyolites with those of Caithness and Gamrie fully confirmed.

My narrative is, I am afraid, becoming tedious; but it embodies somewhat more than the mere history of a sort of Robinson Crusoe in Geology, cut off for years from all intercourse with his kind. It contains, also, the history of a formation in its connection with science; and the reader will, I trust, bear with me for a few pages more. Seasons passed; and I received new light from the researches of Agassiz, which, if it did not show me my way more clearly, rendered it at least more interesting, by associating with it one of those wonderful truths, stranger than fictions, which rise ever and anon from the profounder depths of science, and whose use, in their connection with the human intellect, seems to be to stimulate the faculties. I have often had occasion to refer to the one-sided condition of tail characteristic of the ichthyolites of the Old Red Sandstone. It