

interesting to the antiquary — which has been described by some writers as formed of a species of stone unknown in the district, and which, according to a popular tradition, was transported from the Continent — is evidently composed of this Quartzose Sandstone, and must have been dug out of one of the neighboring quarries. And so coherent is its texture, that the storms of, perhaps, ten centuries have failed to obliterate its rude but impressive sculptures.

The limestones of both the upper and lower formations of the system have been wrought in Moray with tolerable success. In both, however, they contain a considerable percentage of siliceous and argillaceous earth. The system, though occupying an intermediate place between two metaliferous deposits, — the grauwacke and the carboniferous limestone, — has not been found to contain workable veins any where in Britain, and in Scotland no metallic veins of any kind, with the exception of here and there a few slender threads of ironstone, and here and there a few detached crystals of galena. Its wealth consists exclusively in building and paving stone, and in lime. Some of the richest tracts of corn land in the kingdom rest on the Old Red Sandstone — the agricultural valley of Strathmore, for instance, and the fertile plains of Easter-Ross: Caithness has also its deep, corn-bearing soils, and Moray has been well known for centuries as the granary of Scotland. But in all these localities the fertility seems derived rather from an intervening subsoil of tenacious diluvial clay, than from the rocks of the system. Wherever the clay is wanting, the soil is barren. In the moor of the Milbuy — a tract about fifty square miles in extent, and lying within an hour's walk of the Friths of Cromarty and Beaully, — a thin covering of soil rests on the sandstones of the