

ON THE  
RED SANDSTONE, MARBLE, AND QUARTZ  
DEPOSITS OF ASSYNT;

WITH THEIR SUPPOSED ORGANISMS AND PROBABLE  
ANALOGUES.

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IN hurriedly journeying, two years ago, through the upper parts of Assynt, on my way to Loch Inver, I was so struck by the appearance of the stratified limestone deposit to which the marble beds of that locality belong, that I returned last season to examine it more at my leisure, and to trace, if possible, its relations to the other rocks of the country. I had been impressed, in the passing, both by its peculiar aspect, and its occurrence in the same wild tract with a remarkable system of sandstone mountains, unique in the British islands, which have been represented by M'Culloch as formed of the *Old Red Sandstone*, and which, from the nearly horizontal disposition of their strata, he regarded as hills of denudation. It is impossible, he argued, carefully to examine these widely-separated mountains, formed of thin nearly horizontal beds of ripple-marked sandstone, that rest unconformably on the fundamental gneiss of the district, without coming to the conclusion that they are but the mere fragments of a once continuous sandstone bed, from one to three thousand feet in thickness, of which by