

beds is also calcareous), that, on laying open some of the masses with the hammer, my first impulse was to examine them for the characteristic ichthyolites. In brief, the stone of not a few of the subordinate beds of this deposit cannot be distinguished from Caithness flagstones of the more rubbly kind, and are totally unlike any primary rock with which I am acquainted. We find them associated, however, with other rocks of a widely different character, such as traps of the porphyritic and green-stone series; but though these assume, in conformity with the general arrangement of the deposit, the form of strata, they are in all probability mere plutonic injections into the body of the deposit, and newer, not only than the strata over which they rest, but also than the strata by which they are overlaid. In some instances, these trap beds cross the line of stratification. There occur, however, in the lower parts of the limestone division, intercalated strata of quartz rock, mechanical in its structure, which must be regarded as of the same age as the calcareous beds with which it alternates. The limestone is of various colors and qualities; and we find each stratum retaining its peculiar character and tint for great distances together. Some of the strata are earthy, and of a chocolate brown approaching to red; some minutely crystalline, and of various tints of gray; some nearly white, on at least their weathered surfaces; and some, as on the farm of Auchmore, about a mile from the parish church, well nigh black, and, like the limestones of the ichthyolite beds of the east coast, strongly bituminous. Like the limestone of most other localities, and of almost all ages, this calcareous deposit is a cavernous rock. There occur in it in this neighborhood several picturesque caves by the side of a tumbling stream, within less than half an hour's walk of Inch-na-damph; and the famous cave of Smoo, at Durness, so graphically described by Sir Walter Scott, is hollowed in what appears to be the