

ON THE

CORALS OF THE OOLITIC SYSTEM OF
SCOTLAND.

CORALS are extremely rare in the Lias. Messrs. Milne-Edwards and Haime figure, in their elaborate "Monograph of the British Fossil Corals," only three Liassic species, two of them exceedingly minute *Turbinolidæ*, and the third apparently a *Cyathophyllum*, of doubtful lineage, and very probably, it is stated, a misplaced palæozoic specimen. In the Lias of the eastern coast of Scotland, at Eathie, Nigg, and Shandwick, I have not succeeded, after the search of years, in finding a single coral; in that of Skye, however, I have been more fortunate. When examining, nearly eight years ago, the Liassic deposit at Broadford,—by far the most extensive development of this formation in Scotland, for it runs across the island from sea to sea, in a belt from two to four miles in breadth,—I came, near the base of the formation, and at a little distance from where it leans against the so-called Old Red Sandstone of Slate, on what seemed to be a dark-colored bed of concretionary limestone, of very irregular surface, and varying from three to four feet in thickness. The seeming concretionary masses were separated by what appeared to be a gray, indurated mud, which wrapped them round, concealing their true character; but where the edge of the bed was exposed to the lashings of the surf, the