

still lives in the Frith of Forth, — which furnished me in the course of last summer with two specimens, that, from their appearance, must have died within the twelvemonth, — seems to be a greatly less abundant shell in the locality now than during the ages of the old-coast line, and appears, unless, indeed, it has been hitherto strangely missed by our dredgers, to be dying out. The old sea-bottom at Queensferry, little more than half an acre in extent, furnished me with full three dozen specimens, though in a state more or less broken, — an extraordinary number for what has been well described in the history of the Mollusca as one of our rarest British shells. Of these recent shells of the ancient coast line we find older and newer beds. The *Scrobicularia* of Portobello, for instance, were the inhabitants of a muddy estuary, which ran along what is now the flat, winding, willow-skirted valley that runs inland towards the village of Easter Duddingstone; but ere the last upheaval of the land they must have been dead for ages; for how can we otherwise interpret their position in the brick-clay, with from six to eight feet of an argillaceous deposit, of apparently slow formation, resting over them. The *Pholas* bed of the Lones of Fern exists in similar conditions. It, too, was deeply silted over ere the last rise of the land; whereas the shells of Granton, and of many other localities on the coast, must have been beach-shells at the time of the upheaval; and not a few of them were, mayhap, living scarce half a year before. In some of these old estuary deposits, — such as that of Portobello, — we find interesting remains of the aboriginal trees of the country, — boles of oak, birch, alder, the Scotch fir, and the yew, — with handfuls of sorely blackened hazel-nuts, and the trunks and branches of a dwarfish hawthorn, converted into a glossy substance, nearly resembling jet. They yield us curious glimpses of those mighty woods which covered the country ere it had become a home of man, or during those earlier ages of his in-