

Findhorn, and of the Spey, are all well-defined furrows ; nor are the mountain ridges which separate them less definitely ranged in continuous lines. The ridges and furrows of the earlier ploughing are, on the contrary, as might be anticipated, broken and interrupted : the effacing plough has passed over them ; and yet there are certain localities in which we find the fragments of this earlier system sufficiently entire to form one of the main features of the landscape. In passing through the upper reaches of the Moray Frith, and along the Caledonian Valley, the cross furrows may be seen branching off to the west, and existing as the valleys of Loch Fleet, of the Dornoch Frith, of the Frith of Cromarty, of the Bay of Munlochy, of the Frith of Beaully, and, as we enter the Highlands proper, as Glen Urquhart, Glen Morrison, Glen Garry, Loch Arkaig, and Loch Eil. The diagonal system,—represented by the great valley itself, and known as the system of Ben Nevis and the Ord of Caithness in our own country, and, according to De Beaumont, as that of Mount Pilate and Côté d'Or on the Continent,—was upheaved after the close of the Oolitic ages. It was not until at least the period of the Weald that its “hills had been formed and its mountains brought forth ;” and in the line of the Moray Frith the Lias and Oolite lie uptilted, at steep angles, against the sides of its long ranges of precipice. It is not so easy determining the age of the older system. No formation occurs in the North of Scotland between the Lias and the Old Red Sandstone ; the vast Carboniferous, Permian, and Triassic deposits are represented by a wide gap ; and all that can be said regarding the older hills is, that they disturbed and bore up with them the Old Red Sandstone ; but that as there lay at their basis, at the time of their upheaval, no more modern rock to be disturbed, it seems impossible definitely to fix their era. Neither does there appear among their estuaries or valleys any trace of the Oolitic deposits. Existing, in all probability, during even the times of the Lias, as the sub-aerial framework of Oolitic Scotland,—as the framework on which the Oolitic vegetables grew,—no deposit of the system could of course have taken place over them. I had not yet,