

lines of latitude fairly taken into account, we challenge for Scotland the finest climate and the most productive soil in the world. And yet at a time comparatively recent to the geologist, though, of course, removed beyond the historic period, the case was widely different. The scratched and polished rocks of the Pleistocene period, its moraines and travelled stones, its drift gravels, its boulder clays, and its semi-arctic shells, testify to an age of ice and snow, of local glaciers and drifting icebergs, in which not a tithe of the vegetable productions exhibited by the Messrs Lawson could have been reared in Scotland. I am glad to learn that this interesting collection, so honourable to the skill and industry of the collectors, and which so thoroughly bears out the deductions of science regarding the isothermal conditions of Scotland, is to be transferred entire to the horticultural museum at Kew Gardens.

In the exhibition of birds and beasts, which came in part under the head of materials derived from the animal kingdom, and in part illustrated the art of the animal-stuffer, I saw some cabinets of rare interest; but I could fain have wished that the general section had been more complete. Such a collection of the birds, fishes, and quadrupeds of Scotland as that which the Messrs Lawson exhibited of its plants would have well repaid the study of days. Nor, of course, would less of interest have attached to the animals of other countries, with their rivers and seas. I saw one tastefully-arranged case of stuffed birds from the wild west coast of Assynt, and recognised in the name of the exhibitor, Mr W. Dunbar, an intelligent naturalist resident at Loch Inver, whose freely communicated stores of knowledge occupy, though not always with the due acknowledgment, a large space in a late popular work on Sutherlandshire. His case contained chiefly the game-birds of the county, which might be regarded either as the raw material which our sporting gentlemen convert into