

strange fossils of the human period has this sand deposit of subaërial formation been found to contain. There were disinterred on the Cornish coast in 1835, out of an immense wreath of sand, an old British church and oratory,—the church and oratory of Perran-sabulæ,—which had been hidden from the eye of man for nearly a thousand years. The Tractarian controversy had just begun at the time to agitate the Episcopacy of England ; it had become of importance to ascertain the exact form of building sanctioned by antiquity as most conducive to devotion ; and a fossil church, which had undergone no change almost since the times of the ancient Christianity, was too interesting a relic to escape the notice of the parties which the controversy divided. But though antagonistic volumes were written regarding it, in a style not quite like that in which Professor Owen and Dr. Mantell have since discussed the restoration of the Belemnite, it was ultimately found that the little old church of St. Pirran the Culdee,—such a building as Robinson Crusoe might have erected for the ecclesiastical uses of himself and his man Friday,—threw exceedingly little light on the vexed question of church architecture. The altar is in the east, said the Tractarians. Nay, the building itself does not lie east and west, replied their opponents. We grant you it does not, rejoined the Tractarians ; but its gable fronts the point where the sun rises on the saint's birthday. Who knows that ? exclaimed their opponents : besides, the sacred gable was unfurnished with a window. We deny that, said the Tractarians ; the labourer who saw it just ere it fell says there was a large hole in it. And thus the controversy ran on, undoubtedly amusing, and, I daresay, very instructive. The north of Scotland has its ancient fossil barony underlying a wilderness of sand ; ploughed fields and fences, with the walls of turf-cottages, and the remains of a manor-house, all irrecoverably submerged ;—and we find the fact recorded in a