

Scots Act of the times of William III. Curious, as being perhaps the only Act of Parliament in existence to which the geologist could refer for the history of a deposit, I must take the liberty of submitting to you a small portion of one of its long sentences. 'Our Sovereign Lord,' says the preamble, 'considering that many lands, meadows, and pasturages, lying on the sea-coasts, have been ruined and overspread in many parts of this kingdom by sand driven from sand-hills, the which has been mainly occasioned by the pulling up of the roots of bent, juniper, and broom bushes, which did loose and break the surface and scroof of the sand-hills; and particularly, considering that the barony of Cawbin, and house and yeards thereof, lying within the sherifffdom of Elgin, is quite ruined and overspread with sand, the which was occasioned by the foresaid bad practice of pulling the bent and juniper,—does hereby strictly prohibit,' etc. etc. etc. I have wandered for hours amid the sand-wastes of this ruined barony, and seen only a few stunted bushes of broom, and a few scattered tufts of withered bent, occupying, amid utter barrenness, the place of what, in the middle of the seventeenth century, had been the richest fields of the rich province of Moray; and, where the winds had hollowed out the sand, I have detected, uncovered for a few yards'-breadth, portions of the buried furrows, sorely dried into the consistence of sun-burned brick, but largely charged with the seeds of the common corn-field weeds of the country, that, as ascertained by experiment by the late Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, still retain their vitality. It is said that an antique dove-cot in front of the huge sand-wreath which enveloped the manor-house, continued to present the top of its peaked roof over the sand, as a foundered vessel sometimes exhibits its vane over the waves, until the year 1760. The traditions of the district testify that, for many years after the orchard had been enveloped, the top-most branches of the fruit-trees, barely seen over the surface,