

continued each spring languidly to throw out bud and blossom ; and it is a curious circumstance, that in the neighbouring churchyard of Dike there is a sepulchral monument of the Culbin family, which, though it does not date beyond the reign of James VI., was erected by a lord and lady of the last barony, at a time when they seem to have had no suspicion of the utter ruin which was coming on their house. The quaint inscription runs as follows :—

VALER : KINNAIRD : ELIZABETH : INNES : 1613 :
 THE : BVILDARS : OF : THIS : BED : OF : STANE :
 AR : LAIRD : AND : LADIE : OF : COVBINE :
 QVHILK : TVA : AND : THARS : QVHANE : BRAITHE IS : GANE :
 PLEIS : GOD : VIL : SLEIP : THIS : BED : VITHIN :

I refer to these facts, though they belong certainly to no very remote age in the past history of our country, chiefly to show that in what may be termed the geological formations of the human period very curious fossils may be already deposited, awaiting the researches of the future. As we now find, in raising blocks of stone from the quarry, water-rippled surfaces lying beneath, fretted by the tracks of ancient birds and reptiles, there is a time coming when, under thick beds of stone, there may be detected fields and orchards, cottages, manor-houses, and churches,—the memorials of nations that have perished, and of a condition of things and a stage of society that have for ever passed away.

Sand dunes and morasses are phenomena of a strictly local character. The last great geological change, general in its extent and effects, of which Scotland was the subject, was a change in its level, in relation to that of the ocean, of from fifteen to thirty feet. At some unascertained period, regarded as recent by the geologist—for man seems to have been an actor on the scene at the time,—but remote by the historian—for its date is anterior to that of his oldest autho-