

below, you will see how very much I have had to borrow from the labours of others, and that in worming my way into its secret, there are obscure recesses within its precincts into which I have failed to penetrate. Let us now, however, resume its half-told story.

There are appearances which lead us to conclude, that during the formation and deposition of the boulder-clay, what is now Scotland was undergoing a gradual subsidence,—gradually foundering amid the waves, if I may so speak, like a slowly-sinking vessel, and presenting, as century succeeded century, hills of lower and yet lower altitude, and an ever lessening area. I was gratified to find, that when reasoning out the matter for myself, and arriving at this conclusion from the examination of one special set of data, Mr. Charles Darwin was arriving at the same conclusion from the consideration of a second and entirely different set ; and Sir Charles Lyell,—from whom, on the publication of my views in the *Witness* newspaper some four years since, I received a kind and interesting note on the subject,—had also arrived at the same conclusion—North America being the scene of his observations—from the consideration of yet a third and equally distinct set. And in the *Geological Journal* for the present year, I find Mr. Joshua Trimmer and Mr. Austin arriving, from evidence equally independent, at a similar finding. We have all come to infer, in short, that previous to the Drift period the land had stood at a comparatively high level,—perhaps higher than it does now ; that ages of depression came on, during which the land sank many hundred feet, and the sea rose high on the hill-sides ; and that during these ages of depression the boulder-clay was formed. Let me state briefly some of the considerations on which we found.

The boulder-clay, I thus reasoned with myself, is generally found to overlie more deeply the lower parts of the country than those higher parts which approach its upper limit ; and