

in each instance a consequence of the disturbed geologic one.

From the Tertiary deposits we pass direct to the few scattered remains which survive in Scotland of the Cretaceous period. It is now nearly thirty years since it was found by geologists that chalk flints, enclosing in many specimens the peculiar organisms of the system, occur in the superficial deposits of Banff and Aberdeenshires; and about three years ago they were also discovered by a very ingenious man, a Thurso tradesman, Mr. Robert Dick, in the boulder-clays of Caithness. It is, however, a curious fact, that what the geologist has only come to know within the course of the present generation was well known to the wild aboriginal inhabitants of the country some three or four thousand years ago. Well-nigh one half the ancient arrow and smaller javelin heads of the stone period in Scotland, especially those found to the north of the Grampians, were fashioned out of the yellow Aberdeenshire flints. A history of those arts of savage life which the course of discovery served to supplant and obliterate, but which could not be carried on without a knowledge of substances and qualities afterwards lost, until re-discovered by scientific curiosity, would form an exceedingly curious one. On finding, a good many years ago, a vein of a bituminous jet in one of the ichthyolite beds of the Old Red Sandstone of Ross,—beds unknown at the time to even our first geologists,—it curiously impressed me to remember that my discovery was, after all, only a discovery at second-hand; for that in an unglazed hand-made urn of apparently a very early period, dug up in the neighbourhood only a few years before, there had been found a very primitive necklace, fashioned out of evidently the same jet. It would seem that to these ichthyolite beds, unknown at the time in the district to all but myself, the savage inhabitants had had recourse for the materials of their rude ornaments thousands of years before.