

years ago by Sir Roderick Murchison, immediately under the Oxford clay, a bed of the Middle Oolite ; and at Brora, where they were first detected a few twelvemonths since by Mr. Robertson of Elgin, in pretty nearly the same medial position, and where what is known as the great Oolite occurs. Three years ago I had the pleasure of detecting a bed of the same lacustrine or estuary character, and bearing many of the characteristic marks of the Weald, greatly lower still,—lower, indeed, than any fresh-water deposit of the Secondary division in Britain. I found it occurring not forty yards over the bottom of the Lias,—the formation which constitutes the base of the Oolitic system. In Morayshire the Weald occurs in the form of outliers, that rise, as at Linksfield, in the immediate neighbourhood of Elgin, into low swelling hills, resting on the Old Red Sandstone of the district, and so thoroughly insulated from every other rock of the same age, that they have reminded me of detached hillocks of débris and ashes shot down on the surface of some ancient moor by some painstaking farmer, who had contemplated bringing the waste under subjection to the plough. But though valueless, from their detached character, for determining the place of the formation, they serve better than the intercalated beds of Ross, Skye, and Sutherland, to establish by their animal remains the palæontological identity of the Scotch with the English Wealden.

Rather more than twelve years ago, the late Dr. John Malcolmson of Madras,—a zealous and accomplished geologist, too early lost to science and his friends,—brought with him, when on a visit to the Continent, several specimens of ichthyic remains from a Morayshire deposit, and submitted them to Agassiz. ‘Permit me,’ said the naturalist, ‘to find out for myself the formation to which they belong.’ He passed hand and eye over tooth and spine, plate and bone, and at length set his finger on a single scale of rhomboidal form and brightly enamelled surface. ‘Some of these teeth,’