

in the earlier ages,—the change which thrust up its latest-born lines of mountains like wedges through the earth's crust,—was a change which took place a little posterior to that period of its history at which I am now arrived. We find that its last lines of hills disturbed and bore up with them deposits of the Lias and of the Oolite, but of no later formation. The gigantic Ben Nevis and his Anakim brethren of the same group were raising their heads and shoulders through the earth's crust, to form the future landmarks of our country, shortly after the period when the river Lepidoids of the Wealden were disporting in the same brackish tract with the Hybodont sharks of its seas, and its fresh-water Chelonians and marine Plesiosaurs met and intermingled in the same neutral rocks of estuary.

The last great paroxysm of upheaval among our Scottish mountains seems to have operated in lines that traversed the country diagonally from nearly south-west by south to north-east by north,—the line indicated by that of the great Caledonian Valley. We find a northern district of considerable extent ploughed in this direction by the great parallel glens traversed by the Spey, the Findhorn, the Nairn, and the Ness. The northern shore of the Moray Firth, too, with that remarkable line of hills which includes the Sutors of Cromarty, pertains to this system, as also the higher mountain range which rises along the coast of Sutherland, and to which the Ord Hill of Caithness belongs. These lines of hills, wherever they have come in contact—as along the shores of the Moray Firth—with beds of the Lias and Oolite, have disturbed and tilted up, at a steep angle, their edges. The hill of Eathie, in the neighbourhood of Cromarty,—a hill of the series in which the two Sutors occur,—has at one place borne up the Lower Lias on its flanks at an angle of eighty ; and among the rocks of the Northern Sutor there is a tall precipice of the Old Red Sandstone, with an uptilted deposit of the Lias at its base, whose abrupt, dizzy