

front, once the haunt of the eagle, and still that of the blue hawk, was evidently, ere the elevation of the series, part of the horizontal platform on which the first Liassic stratum had been deposited. What was a flat submarine bottom then is a steep ivy-mantled precipice now. Across the long deep valleys and mountain ridges of this last line of upheaval in Scotland,—the line to which Ben Nevis, Milfourveny, and the Ord Hill of Caithness belong, and whose period of elevation a high Continental authority, Elie de Beaumont, regards as identical with that of the Mont Pilas and Côte d'Or of France, we find a greatly less continuous, because more interrupted and broken, set of ridges, running in a nearly westerly direction. The firths of Dornoch, Cromarty, and Beaully, with the bays of Munloch and Urquhart, Loch Oich and Loch Eil, which all strike westwards across the country from off the great diagonal trench of the Caledonian Valley, indicate the direction of this second and earlier line of upheaval. I say earlier line. The hills of the diagonal Ben Nevis line disturbed and broke up the Oolite, whereas the hills of the transverse, or, as I may term it, Ben Wyvis line, disturbed and bore up with them nothing more modern than the Old Red Sandstone. I have described the northern part of the kingdom as consisting of a great Primary nucleus, surrounded by strata more or less broken, of Old Red Sandstone, Lias, and Oolite.¹ Let us now further conceive of that nucleus as a stony field, that had been first ploughed across and fretted into deep furrows and steep mountainous ridges, and then in an after period ploughed diagonally, so as partially to efface the former ploughing, so that only in the direction of the last ploughing do the ridges and furrows remain tolerably entire,—let us, I say, conceive of such a ploughed field, and we shall have a tolerably adequate conception, so far as it goes, of the framework of at least the northern portion of Scot-

¹ To which is to be now added Silurian.