

and that even the details of my subject, rightly appreciated, are not suited to lower our conceptions of the wonderful workings of old of Him, who, by processes which science is but now aspiring to comprehend, 'gathered the waters together into one place, that the dry land might appear,' and laid the deep-seated foundation of the mighty hills.

Let us now pass on to the Oolite proper, and its base the Lias, as we find them developed in Scotland. They form but a comparatively small portion of the surface of the country,—not much more, it has been estimated, than sixty square miles; nor can I refer definitely to any marked peculiarity of scenery in the districts in which they occur. The Oolites of Sutherland extend westwards and southwards from the Ord Hill of Caithness to the village of Golspie, a distance of about sixteen miles; and form, under the rugged line of hills against whose flanks they recline, a green narrow strip of low country, that, where not too deeply covered up by débris of the Primary rocks, transported from the interior during the Pleistocene period, is, for its extent, of great agricultural value, and bears on its cultured surface the rich fields and extensive woods of Dunrobin, the stately castle of the old Earls of Sutherland. Further to the west and south, along the eastern shores of Cromarty and Ross, detached patches of the Lias occur, as at Shandwick, at the Northern Sutor of Cromarty, at the Southern Sutor, and at the Hill of Eathie,—each patch occurring directly opposite, and leaning against, one of the upheaved hills, which, as I have already said, were undoubtedly the agents in raising and bringing it to the surface. The Lias and Oolite also appear on the southern side of the Moray Firth, in the counties of Moray and Banff, but merely as outliers of very limited extent, and sorely broken up or ground down by the denuding Pleistocene agencies. On the western coast of Scotland the Lias may be seen on the mainland at Applecross, and on the sides of Loch Aline, opposite the Sound