

stratum composed of littoral univalves, vertebral joints, phalanges, and portions of the humerus and of the pelvic arch of Plesiosaurus, together with the limb-bones of crocodileans, and fragments of the carapace of a tortoise. Previous, however, to even the earlier date of my discoveries, the tooth of a Saurian had been found in the Sutherlandshire Oolite by Mr. (now Sir Roderick) Murchison, and the limb-bone of a Chelonian with a sauroid vertebra, in the outlier of the Morayshire Weald at Linksfield. My collection, however, though still very inadequate in this department, contains, in quantity at least, and, I am disposed to think, in variety also, some eight or ten times more of the reptilian remains of Scotland, during the Secondary ages, than all the other collections of the kingdom. They at least serve to demonstrate that the Oolitic period in what is now our country, was, as in England and on the Continent, a period of huge and monstrous reptiles,—that the bepaddled Enaliosaurs, the strange reptilian predecessors of the Cetacea, haunted our seas in at least two of their generic forms,—that of the Ichthyosaur and that of the Plesiosaur; that our rivers were frequented by formidable crocodiles; and that tortoises of various perished species lived in our lakes and marshes, or, according to their natures, disported on the drier grounds. Nor is it probable that the other reptilian monsters of the time, the contemporaries of these creatures in England, would have been wanting here. We may safely infer that flocks of Pterodactyles,—reptiles mounted on bat-like wings, and as wild and monstrous in aspect and proportion as romancer of the olden time ever feigned,—fluttered through the tall pine-forests, or perched on the cycadeæ and the tree-ferns; that the colossal Iguanodon and gigantic Hylæosaurus browsed on the succulent equisetaceæ of the low meadows; that the minute Amphitherium, an insectivorous mammal of the period, lodged among the ferns on the drier grounds, where extinct grass-