

hoppers chirped throughout the long bright summer, and antique coleoptera burrowed in the sand ; and that far off at sea there were moments when the sun gleamed bright on the polished sides of the enormous Cetiosaurus, as it rose from the bottom to breathe. But I must close this part of my subject,—the Scottish flora and fauna of the Oolite, —on which my narrow limits permit me, as you see, to touch at merely a few salient points,—with two brief remarks :—*First*, So rich was its flora, that its remains formed on the east coast of Sutherland a coal, or rather lignite field, so considerable that it was wrought for greatly more than a century,—at one time to such effect, that during the twelve years which intervened between 1814 and 1826, no fewer than seventy thousand tons of coal were extracted from one pit. *Second*, The strange union which we find in the same beds of trees that seem to have languished under chill and severe skies, with plants, corals, and shells of a tropical or semi-tropical character, need not be regarded as charged with aught like conflicting evidence respecting the climatal conditions of the time. Climate has its zones marked out as definitely by thousands of feet on our hill-sides as by degrees of latitude on the surface of the globe ; and if the Scotland of the Oolitic period was, as is probable, a mountainous country traversed by rivers, productions of an intertropical, and of even a semi-arctic, character, may have been not only produced within less than a day's journey of each other, but their remains may have been mingled by land-floods, as we find the huge corals of Helmsdale blent with its slow-growing pines, among the débris of some littoral bed. The poet's exquisite description of Lebanon suggests, I am disposed to think, the true reading of the enigma :—

‘ Like a glory the broad sun  
Hangs over sainted Lebanon,  
Whose head in wintry grandeur towers,  
And whitens with eternal sleet ;