hieroglyphics, to which living nature furnishes the key, we may perhaps be permitted to indulge in some of those reflections which so naturally suggest themselves in solitary church-yards, or among the tombs of the ancient dead.

The hill of Eathie is a picturesque eminence of granitic gneiss, largely mixed with beds of hornblende schist, which extends, in a long precipitous ridge, some five or six hundred feet in height, along the northern side of the Moray Firth, and forms one of a primary chain of hills, which, in their up-heaval, uptilted deposits of the Lias and Oolite. The deposit which the hill of Eathie disturbed is exclusively a Liassic one : the upturned edge of the base of the formation rests against the bottom of the hill ; and we may trace the edges of its various upper deposits for several hundred feet out-wards, bed above bed, until, apparently near the top of the formation, we lose them in the sea. There is a wild beauty on the shores of Eathie. A selvage of comparatively level ground, that occupies the space between the rocky beach and an inflection of the hill, seems embosomed in solitude ; the naked scaurs and furze-covered slopes, where the fox and the badger breed, interpose their dizzy fence between it and the inhabited portions of the country above ; while the rough unfrequented shore and wide-spreading sea form the seclud-ing barriers below. The only human dwellings visible are the minute specks of white that look out in the sunshine from the dim and diluted blue of the opposite coast ; and we may see the lonely firth broadening and widening as it re-cedes from the eye, and opens to the ocean in a direction so uninterrupted by land, that the waves, which, when the wind blows from the keen north, first begin to break on the dis-tant headlands, and then come running up the coast, like white coursers, may have heaved their first undulating move-ments under the polar ice. The scene seems such a one as the anchorite might choose to wear out life in, far from the society of fellow-man ; and we actually find, in exploring its