

ous or less minutely recorded incident inscribed on a slab of the same formation, figured and described by Sir Roderick Murchison. It is impressed by the footprints of some be-tailed batrachian, greatly less bulky than the other, that went waddling along much at its leisure, like the sheep in the nursery rhyme, 'trailing its tail behind it.' There is a double track of footprints on the slab,—those of the right and left feet; in the middle between the two, lies the long groove formed by the tail,—a groove continuous, but slightly zig-zagged, to indicate the waddle. The creature, half-way in its course, lay down to rest, having apparently not much to do, and its abdomen formed a slight hollow in the sand beneath. Again rising to its feet, it sprawled a little, and the hinder part of its body, in getting into motion, fretted the portion of the surface that furnished what we may term the fulcrum of the movement, into two wave-like curves. Here, again, are we furnished, from the most remote antiquity, with a piece of narrative of a kind which assuredly we could scarce expect to find enduringly recorded in the rocks. Various reptiles have left curious passages of their history of this kind inscribed on the sandstones of Dumfriesshire; and as Sir William Jardine, the proprietor of some of the quarries, has set himself to the work of illustration, the geologist may soon hope to be put in possession of a monograph at once worthy of the subject and of so distinguished a naturalist.¹ The footprints first observed by Dr. Duncan were chiefly those of tortoises; but there also exist in the rock numerous tracks of the huge batrachians of the period, with traces of a small animal, scarce larger than a rat; and of a nameless, nondescript creature, whose footprints might at the first glance almost be mistaken for those of a horse, but the marks of whose toes have been traced, in some of the impressions, outside the ring of the

¹ See Sir William Jardine's work on the *Ichnology of Annandale*.