

dissociated elsewhere in the country,—the rich softness of a Lowland scene, with numerous arms of the sea, characteristic elsewhere, as on the western coast, of a Highland one,—it forms a landscape unique among the landscapes of Scotland. But perhaps the most striking scenic peculiarities of the Old Red Sandstone are to be found in its rock-pieces. The Old Man of Hoy, with its mural rampart of precipices, not unfurnished with turret and tower, and wide yawning portals, and that rise a thousand feet over the waves,—the tall stacks of Canisbay, ornately Gothic in their style of ornament, with the dizzy chasms of the neighbouring headland, in which the tides of the Pentland Firth for ever eddy and boil, and the surf for ever roars,—and the strangely fractured precipices of Holburn Head, where, through dark crevice and giddy chasm, the gleam of the sun may be seen reflected far below on the green depths of the sea, and, venerable and grey, like some vast cathedral, a dis severed fragment of the coast descried rising beyond,—are all rock-scenes of the Old Red Sandstone. When I last stood on the heights of Holburn, there was a heavy surf toiling far below along the base of the overhanging wall of cliff which lines the coast; and deep under my feet I could hear a muffled roaring amid the long corridor-like caves into which the headland is hollowed, and which, opening to the light and air far inland by narrow vents and chasms, send up at such seasons, high over the blighted sward, clouds of impalpable spray, that resemble the smoke of great chimneys. As I peered into one of these profound gulfs, and dimly marked, hundreds of feet below, the upward dash of the foam, grey in the gloom,—as I looked, and experienced, with the gaze, that mingled emotion natural amid such scenes which Burke so well analyses as a consciousness of great expansiveness and dimension, associated with a sense of danger,—my eye caught, on the verge of the precipice, the outline of part of an old reptile fish traced on the rock. It was the cranial