

at its quickest, as the hour-hand of a timepiece ; and vast fragments are borne away from submerged peaks and precipices by the enclaspings solid, just as ordinary streams bear along their fragments of rock and stone from the banks and ridges that lie most exposed to the sweep of their currents. All around, according to Milton,

‘ A frozen continent  
Lies dark and wild, beat by perpetual storms.’

Not a peak of our higher hills appears : all are enveloped in their cerements of cold and death. Even along the flanks of the gigantic Alps, the groovings and polishings rise, says Agassiz, to an elevation of nine thousand feet ; and then, and not before, do we find the pinnacles that overlooked the scene standing up sharp and unworn. If we ask a varied prospect, we must remove from our present stand, to where Mont Blanc and his compeers raise their white summits over the line of the horizon, to give earnest of a buried continent, or to where the smoke and fire of Hecla ascends amid the level from a dripping crater of ice.

#### CROMARTY.

CROMARTY,—my own especial manor, which I have so often beat over, but not yet half exhausted,—presents to the geologist one of the most interesting centres of exploration in Scotland. Does he wish thoroughly to study our Scotch Lias, Upper and Lower, with the Oolitic member which immediately overlies it ?—then let him remove to Cromarty, and study it there. Is he solicitous to acquaint himself with the fossils of the Lower<sup>1</sup> Old Red Sandstone in that state of finest preservation in which the microscope finds most of beauty and finish in them ?—then let him by all

<sup>1</sup> Now ascertained to be *Middle*.