

The first patch lies between Fyvie and Penman Bay in Aberdeenshire ; the second forms both shores of Moray Firth and Dornoch Firth, and stretches a long way up the Great Valley of the Caledonian Canal, through which at one time I have no doubt it passed all the way to the Firth of Lorn, between Oban and the island of Mull ; and the third forms the greater part of Caithness. On the west coast a large tract of hilly ground between the neighbourhood of Loch Awe, Oban, and Kerera is chiefly formed of Old Red conglomerate.

For the first compendious account of the Old Red Sandstone of Scotland the world is indebted to Hugh Miller, whose wonderful faculty of graphic description enabled him, unassisted, to describe the rocks and the remarkable forms of fish they contain, which till his time were almost altogether unknown. Something, however, still remains to be done, before the precise relations to each other of some of the parts of the Old Red Sandstone of Scotland are clearly established. The researches of Professor Geikie and other officers of the Geological Survey, have shown that, south of the Grampian Mountains, there is an upper set of strata, lying in basins unconformably on the lower Old Red Sandstone.

Conglomerate often lies at the base of any part of the series that rests directly on the ancient slates and gneissic rocks, and occasionally thick conglomerates are intercalated among the sandy strata on various horizons, as, for example, on Moray and Cromarty Firths. These beds are sometimes thin, and sometimes of enormous thickness. Some of these conglomerates are clearly volcanic breccias and ashy beds ; as, for example, on part of the Ochil Hills, south of the Firth of Tay, and from thence stretching westward at