

Not long after Ray and Linnæus had attempted the artificial and logical classification of living beings, and about the same time that Buffon in France infused into the literature of his country a somewhat pretentious love of nature, Gilbert White, in a simpler and more healthy style, betook himself to describe the aspect that nature presented when viewed from the quiet home of an English country parson. He may be said to have represented that other

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of nature, "led an unusually full life, occupied in promoting science and arousing enthusiasm and awakening intelligence in others. To almost every department of biology he rendered much service, especially by connecting various branches together and illustrating one by the other. Though his published works have been few, his ideas have been as the grain of mustard-seed in the parable" ('Dictionary of National Biography'). After holding various badly paid offices in London and elsewhere, he succeeded Robert Jameson as Professor of Natural History at Edinburgh (see 'Memoir of E. Forbes,' by G. Wilson and A. Geikie, 1861).

Hugh Miller (1802-56), the self-taught stonemason of Cromarty, combined the soul of an artist with that of a naturalist. His writings occupy a place by themselves in English Literature. "The principal scene of his own investigations was the Cromarty district, where he ransacked every wrinkle of the hillside, and traced every stratum sawn through by the watercourse, and where on the beach at ebb, in indurated clay of bluish tint and great tenacity, belonging to the old Red Sandstone formation, he discovered and dug out nodules which, when laid open by a skilful blow of the hammer, displayed organisms that had never been seen by the human eye." In September 1840

there appeared in the 'Witness' a series of articles entitled "The Old Red Sandstone." They formed the nucleus of a book of this title which established the reputation of Miller as an original geologist, as a practical thinker and fascinating writer. 'My Schools and Schoolmasters' is a masterpiece of the English language. "In an age prodigal of genius, yet abounding also in extravagance, glare, and bombast, the self-educated stonemason wrote with the calmness and moderation of Addison." "The fossil remains seem in his glowing pages to live and flourish, to fly, swim, or gambol, or to shoot up in vegetative profusion and splendour, as in the primal dawn of creation" (Carruthers, quoted by Peter Bayne in 'The Life and Letters of Hugh Miller,' 2 vols., 1871).

David Robertson, the naturalist of Cumbrae in the Firth of Clyde (born in 1806), was a farm-labourer till he was twenty-four, then took to the study of medicine, and had afterwards for many years a china and hardware shop in Jail Square, Glasgow. He gained a sufficient independence to be able to retire in 1860 to Great Cumbrae, where he devoted the rest of his life to a study of nature. Especially in "the marine section, by his own unaided efforts, he opened up in a remarkable degree the zoology of the Firth of Clyde.