

an old mountain system, formed of a complex of rock formations of very different geological ages. These have been crushed and crumpled together by excessive lateral pressure, locally inverted, profoundly dislocated, and partially metamorphosed.' At the same time, while he regarded the disproof of the ascending series of Murchison as a triumph for Nicol, yet, as might be expected, the truth with regard to all points of structure was by no means wholly on one side.<sup>1</sup>

In November 1884, Sir Archibald Geikie announced that the results of the detailed mapping by the Geological Survey, commenced in the previous year in Sutherland, had convinced him that the stratigraphical sequence above the Durness limestone, contended for by Murchison, was no longer tenable.<sup>2</sup>

When informed, after the Aberdeen meeting of the British Association in 1885, of Professor Judd's appreciation, in his address to Section C, of the work of James Nicol, his widow quietly and with quaint humour replied, 'I knew well James would be right.'<sup>3</sup> Thus happily was the Highland controversy closed in regard to the main points at issue.

Three years later the conclusions attained by the Geological Survey in the intricate region between Durness and Assynt were communicated to the Society, in a memoir containing a lucid exposition of the extraordinary geological structures, and an historical account of previous researches on the subject.<sup>4</sup> The subsequent discovery of the *Olenellus*-zone in the fucoïd beds of Durness, brought before the Society in 1892, fixed their age as Lower Cambrian.<sup>5</sup>

The presence of reversed faults, producing great

<sup>1</sup> *Geol. Mag.* 1883, pp. 121, &c., and *Proc. Geol. Assoc.* viii. p. 441.

<sup>2</sup> *Nature*, xxxi. November 1884, p. 29.

<sup>3</sup> This reminiscence was communicated by Dr. John Horne.

<sup>4</sup> *Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.* xlv. 1888, p. 379. An elaborate memoir on the geology of the North-West Highlands will shortly be published by the Geological Survey.

<sup>5</sup> Peach and Horne, *Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.* xlviii. 227; see also Hudleston, Address to Geol. Soc. 1894.