

would be at once a very valuable and curious document, important to the naturalist, and not without its use to the geological student.

I know not how it may be with others ; but the special phenomena connected with Orkney that most decidedly bore fruit in my mind, and to which my thoughts have most frequently reverted, were those exhibited in the neighborhood of Stromness. I would more particularly refer to the characteristic fragment of *Asterolepis*, which I detected in its lower flagstones, and to the curiously mixed, semi-marine, semi-lacustrine vegetation of the Loch of Stennis. Both seem to bear very directly on that development hypothesis, — fast spreading among an active and ingenious order of minds, both in Britain and America, and which has been long known on the Continent, — that would fain transfer the work of creation from the department of miracle to the province of natural law, and would strike down, in the process of removal, all the old landmarks, ethical and religious.