

CHAPTER VIII.

Upper Formations of the Old Red Sandstone. — Room enough for each and to spare. — Middle, or Cornstone Formation. — The *Cephalaspis* its most characteristic Organism. — Description. — The Den of Balruddery richer in the Fossils of this middle Formation than any other Locality yet discovered. — Various Contemporaries of the *Cephalaspis*. — Vegetable Impressions. — Gigantic Crustacean. — *Seraphim*. — *Ichthyodorulites*. — Sketch of the Geology of Forfarshire. — Its older Deposits of the Cornstone Formation. — The Quarries of Carmylie. — Their Vegetable and Animal Remains. — The Upper Formation. — Wide Extent of the Fauna and Flora of the earlier Formations. — Probable Cause.

HITHERTO I have dwelt almost exclusively on the fossils of the Lower Old Red Sandstone, and the history of their discovery : I shall now ascend to the organisms of its higher platforms. The system in Scotland, as in the sister kingdom, has its middle and upper groups, and these are in no degree less curious than the inferior group already described, nor do they more resemble the existences of the present time. Does the reader remember the illustration of the pyramid employed in an early chapter — its three parallel bars, and the strange hieroglyphics of the middle bar? Let him now imagine another pyramid, inscribed with the remaining and later history of the system. We read, as before, from the base upwards, but find the broken and half-defaced characters of the second erection descending into the very soil, as in those obelisks of Egypt round which the sands of the desert have been accumulating for ages. Hence a hiatus in our history for future excavators to fill ; and it contains many such blanks, every unfossiliferous bar in either pyramid represent-