friends the anti-geologists, that they should much rather attempt making shillings by lecturing against the science, than run the risk of losing the shillings already made by becoming *miners* in its despite.

The Oolite of Sutherland, — famous for containing the only seam of coal in this formation, at least in Britain, which could have been wrought for years without much positive loss, — was elaborately described many years ago by Sir Roderick Murchison, in a memoir that gave rich earnest of his after contributions to geologic science. It is impossible, however, to exhaust a great formation otherwise than slowly; and not a few fossils have been added of late years to the list appended to Sir Roderick's memoir. It is from the vegetable organisms of this deposit that we can now form our most adequate conceptions of the Oolitic Flora of Scotland. As in England and America, it had its numerous cycadaceæ, — its ferns of simple undivided frond, unique in their venation, but resembling in their forms the hart's-tongue genus (Scolopendra), its thuyites, its pines; and though they occupied a scarce appreciable space in the group, its dicotyledonous plants. When, after glancing over some of the vegetable productions of the system, such as its cycadaceæ, now restricted to the warmer climates, or over its massive corals, which attained to a size seldom rivalled in the present state of things, save in the intertropical seas, I have then examined some of its woods externally gnarled, and stunted, and marked internally by minute annual rings, as small as those of a Scotch fir or Norwegian pine that had grown on some exposed hill-side, it has occurred to me that some of the Oolitic districts in what is now Scotland must have had their lofty mountain ranges, which, while a genial climate prevailed at their bases, rose, mayhap, to nearly the snow-line, and bore on their bleak ridges the stunted slow-growing trees. The framework of this ancient land was composed — as we learn from