

the remains of the earliest races of organized creatures. But what have the discoveries of the last six months established? Why, this, that the Old Red Sandstone of the east coast of Scotland is comparatively a *modern* formation,—much newer, at least, than the grand and lofty masses of the purple and red conglomerate of the western coast, which they so greatly resemble, but upon which Sir Roderick Murchison has now proved that an extensive series of crystalline quartz-rocks, limestones, and micaceous schists repose, all *greatly older* than Hugh Miller's fish-beds! The discovery a few years ago of a little frog-like, air-breathing reptile in Morayshire (named the *Telerpeton Elginense*), has been a bone of contention among the *savans*, because, according to past theories, it was not easy to admit that it could have lived at the date of the deposition of the Old Red Sandstone; and hence very grave doubts were expressed about it, and much anxiety shown to establish that it belonged to the *carboniferous* strata, or to a *New Red* Sandstone formation, which, if it did exist in our district, would be most valuable, from the salt and calcareous deposits in which it usually abounds. But within the last month or so, Sir Roderick Murchison, in company with the Rev. G. Gordon of Birnie, made transverse sections of the whole series of Morayshire freestones, from the edges of the micaceous schist in the interior, to the maritime promontories of Burghead and Lossiemouth, which convinced them that the whole red and yellowish sandstones of the province 'are so bound together by mineral characters and fossil remains, that they must all be grouped as *Old Red* or *Devonian*.' Nay, more than this, the views of the Director-General of the Geological Survey have been confirmed and extended by the further discovery of *foot-prints* in the Burghead sandstone, not only of a small reptile like the *Telerpeton*, but of very large creatures, that in their movements made enormous strides, and whose bushy tails