greatly interested in our visit, owing to a report which had reached Stanley that some seams of graphite and workable beds of coal had been found at Port Sussex, on the other side of the island. Although from the little I had seen and read of the geology of the islands, and still more from the appearance of the specimens shown me by Colonel D'Arcy, I felt pretty well assured that the quest would be fruitless, to satisfy the governor and the agent of the Falkland Islands Company I asked Mr. Moseley, who was glad of the opportunity of seeing more of the country, to ride across and ascertain the true state of affairs. His observations justified our previous opinion. The whole of the east island, and probably the greater part of the west island also, consists of sedimentary rocks of paleozoic age ; in the low grounds, clay-slate and soft sandstone, and on the ridges hardened sandstone passing into the conspicuous white quartzites. The beds of so-called coal were simply very bituminous beds among the clay-slates, sometimes becoming a sort of culm, which might possibly answer to mix with coal and burn in a smithy fire, like the bituminous slates in the Bala series of Tyrone and Dumfriesshire, but which could never be worked with advantage. The graphite was only the blackest samples of the same material.

Mr. Moseley brought back a fine lot of fossils from the sandstone, the beds and their contents having very much the appearance of the ferruginous sandstones of May Hill or Girvan. The species of *Orthis, Atrypa,* and *Spirifer* are different; and as there are no graptolites in the schists, it is probable that the whole series belongs to a somewhat later period, possibly the base of the Devonians. But if Mr. Moseley did not find coal, he brought home, slung at his saddle-bow, what was of much greater interest to us—the skull and a great part of the skeleton of a rare little whale belonging to the genus *Xiphius.*

The Falkland Islands consist of the older paleozoic rocks, Lower Devonian, or Upper Silurian, slightly metamorphosed