with which they are traversed. The soft and ductile state in which this rock must have existed, is proved by the excessive flexures there exhibited. The face of some of the cliffs appears like veined marble paper; and the "imagination," observes Dr. MacCulloch, "can scarcely conceive an intricacy, or interlamination of this nature, of which a resemblance could not be found in Lewis." From the decomposition and falling away of the surrounding parts of the rocks near Oreby, an interesting, perhaps solitary, example occurs of a bent and detached mass of gneiss about thirty or forty feet high * (Tab. 141), which forms a highly interesting and picturesque object.

There are various substances associated with this group, as steatite, hornblende schist, chlorite schist, and the beautiful mottled magnesian rock called *serpentine;* but I must refer you to the elementary works on Geology and Mineralogy previously cited (page 186).

Mica schist and gneiss, are widely spread over and around the unstratified masses of primary rocks, of which I shall presently treat. They are scarcely known in England, but extensively prevail in the Highlands of Scotland, in the Hebrides,† and in the mountain ranges of Ireland; they also occur

* Dr. MacCulloch's Western Isles, p. 193.

† Since the admirable work of Dr. MacCulloch on the Western Isles of Scotland (1819), the Hebrides have become classical ground to the geologist.