

line in their structure, and the mode of formation supposed would be favourable to the process of crystallisation. They are not mixed with the porous and cellular substances which are found in alliance with erupted rock, and which derive their state from the expansion of contained gases and from exposure to the atmosphere. They are seldom, if ever, found to have spread themselves over other formations. They send veins occasionally into adjacent rocks, but do not seem to have overflowed them. From such facts geologists are led to infer, that granite passed from a state of fusion into a state of solidity at great subterranean depths, and that it afterwards became exposed, as now consolidated, by denudation, or from having been forced up in a hard state through overlying deposits. It is a striking circumstance, that no pebble of granite is found in the red sandstone conglomerates of Arran, though the mountains which now give it its character of boldness and sublimity consist of granite, and though morsels and blocks of this stone are strewed plentifully over the island, and over the adjoining mainland. The inference is, that the granitic masses were not