

hills of the country,—such as Glasveen, Ben-Uie, and Benmore. Even where most indurated, it is everywhere, like the resembling bed which underlies the limestone, purely mechanical in its structure,—an indurated, indestructible sandstone, in short; and how very indurated and indestructible it is, the gray and hoary nakedness of the massive eminences composed of it serves very conclusively to show. It never resolves into soil: the only tracts of soil which occur over it are of a peaty character, formed simply through the agency of water, and of that low vegetation which, in a weeping climate, water can of itself sustain. Where the hill-sides, formed of this deposit, rise steeply, they admit of no covering at all,—not even of a crust of moss or of lichen; and their summits gleam white and bright to the summer sun, as if overlaid by a continuous layer of snow. I may add that, from its great durability, it bears with singular distinctness, in this region, marks of the old glacial action. High above the sorely weathered limestones, that retain not a trace on their surface save of the recent storms that last washed them, we find the white quartz rock still as smoothly polished, as distinctly grooved, as sharply lined and furrowed, as if the great ice-river which produced the phenomena had grated over them but yesterday. This upper deposit of quartz enters largely into the composition of some of the wildest and most desolate scenery of Assynt. In looking up the dark narrow lake which takes its name from the district, we see the broad bases and naked storm-riven summits of Benmore and the neighboring mountain Glasveen, forming the back-ground of the landscape. The ancient castle of Ardvo-rack, and the old mansion-house of Eddrachalda,—both broken and roofless ruins, situated within a few hundred yards of each other,—the one shattered by lightning, the other scathed by fire,—comprise, from one interesting point of view, the only human dwellings visible in the prospect: solitude broods