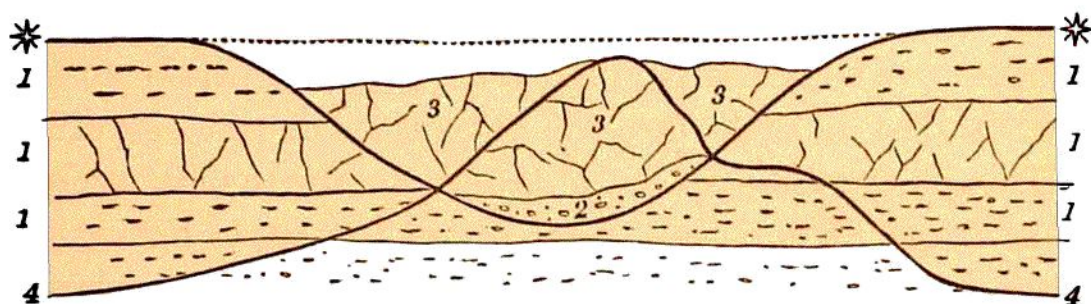


Scur of Eigg, the lava (obsidian 3, fig. 77) flowed over the valley gravel (2) and buried it. Since then the waste has been so great, that the destruction of the older hills that bounded the valley has literally exalted the valley and laid the hills low, for the obsidian was harder than the walls of the valley, and has longer resisted destruc-

FIG. 77.



1. Old lavas, &c. 2. River valley scooped out by denudation.  
3. Obsidian filling valley. 4. Present outline of the country produced by later denudations.

tion, and thus it happened that the Scur of Eigg became one of the most striking peaks in the Western Islands.

Thus it also happens that in the old volcanic plateaux valleys a thousand feet deep have been excavated, and the whole region has by denudation been changed into a line of fragmentary islands, the high sea cliffs of which attest the greatness of the waste they have in time undergone.<sup>1</sup>

During this time the greater contours of England remained the same, that is to say, the old mountain lands of Devon, Wales, and Cumbria, though suffering from denudation, remained mountainous still, and, together with the lower country, the whole was merely upheaved so far that England was joined to the Con-

<sup>1</sup> See A. Geikie, 'Jour. Geol. Society,' xxvii., 'On Tertiary Volcanic Rocks.'