

convinced that, could the outlier of breccia be stripped off, the same kind of surface would be found below it as on the gneiss above and around. The valley containing this little fragment of a once more extensive deposit of breccia certainly existed as a hollow in Cambrian times. From the narrowness of its present outlet, which has been cut by the escaping streamlet, and from the nature of the breccia, we may infer with some plausibility that the hollow was filled with water, and may have been a lake. It was almost certainly a rock-basin, surrounded with hills of gneiss that had been worn into undulating dome-shaped hummocks.

Behind the new hotel at Gairloch the ground rises steeply into a rocky bank of the old gneiss. Along the base of these slopes the gneiss (which is here a greenish schist) is wrapped round with a breccia of remarkable coarseness and toughness. We noticed some blocks in it fully five feet long. It is entirely made up of angular fragments of the schist underneath, to which it adheres with great tenacity. Here again rounded and smoothed domes of the older rock can be traced passing under the breccia, as at *a* in Fig. 23. On the coast immediately to the south of the new Free Church a series of instructive sections lays bare the worn undulating platform of gneiss, with its overlying cover of coarse angular breccia (*b*, Fig. 23). Similar evidence occurs to the north of Loch Inver.



Fig. 23.—Sections of the junction of the fundamental gneiss and overlying Cambrian breccia. Gairloch.