

Old Red Sandstone coast-cliffs of Caithness and the Orkney Islands (Fig. 7). Where the joints are inclined away from the sea the cliffs actually overhang; but this is obviously not due to any greater demolition of their base by the waves. The true explanation will be at once understood from Fig. 8, which represents the overhanging cliffs in one of the Orkney Islands (compare also the view of the coast-line near Wick (Fig. 11), and of the Noss Head, Shetland, in Fig. 14).

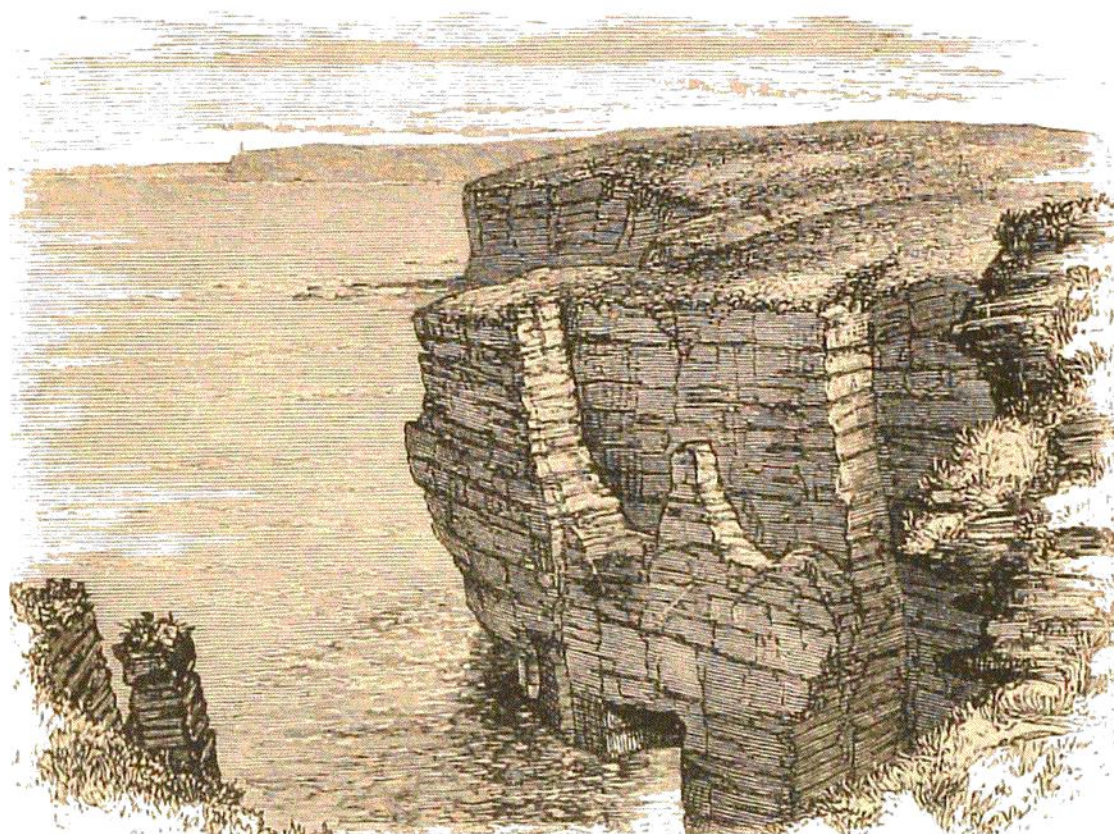


FIG. 7.—Flagstone Cliffs, Holburn Head, Caithness.

No one can watch the progress of a storm on an exposed rocky coast without being strongly impressed with the powerful effects of breakers in wearing away the margin of the land. A wave which can deal a blow equal to a pressure of 6083 pounds, or nearly three tons, on the square foot (and this is the ascertained impetus of storm waves among the outer Hebrides), is no feeble instrument of abra-