

in Sutherland and also above the flagstone plain of Caithness, it looms up on the southern horizon of the Orkney Islands. Rising almost from the edge of the sea, it stands out as the last great headland on the northern sky-line as seen from the southern shores of the Moray Firth. This commanding position acquires much significance from the internal structure of the mountains. Morven and the adjacent cone of the Maiden Pap are a prolongation of the base of the Caithness Old Red Sandstone. They consist of nearly horizontal strata, and stand as vast pyramids upon the low region of schists which they so proudly overlook.

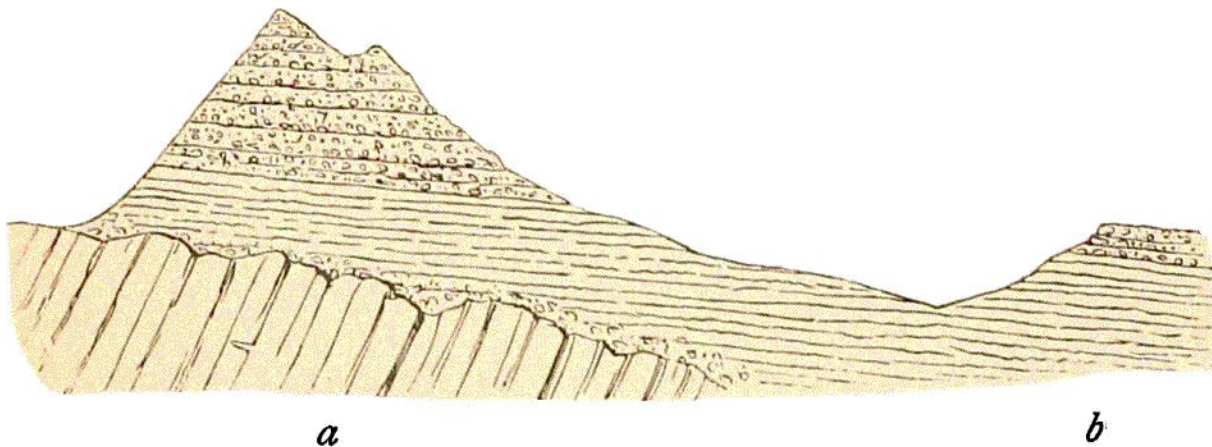


FIG. 27.—Section of Morven, Caithness. *a*, Crystalline schists. *b*, Old Red Conglomerate and Sandstone.

The section in Fig. 27 shows that the schists must have been worn down into a platform before the conglomerates formed out of their ruins were piled up on them. It likewise indicates how greatly the Old Red Sandstone itself has afterwards suffered from denudation, for the gently sloping beds undoubtedly at one time stretched far to the westward.

Similar evidence is yielded by the chain of rounded, craggy, conical hills between Golspie and Helmsdale, mounting sometimes to nearly 2000 feet above the sea, and presenting the abraded ends of the strata towards the interior. It is impossible to look at these brown hills with-