

indications of land in the region of the Northern Highlands in early Secondary time, but the Jurassic sea undoubtedly extended far over it. The sea in which the Chalk was laid down must have spread over at least the lower part of the country, for the land in the western parts of Argyllshire, to judge from the height at which the Chalk now occurs there, must have been not less than 1500 feet lower in level than at present. But in early Tertiary time that region had once more become dry land, as is proved by the plant-

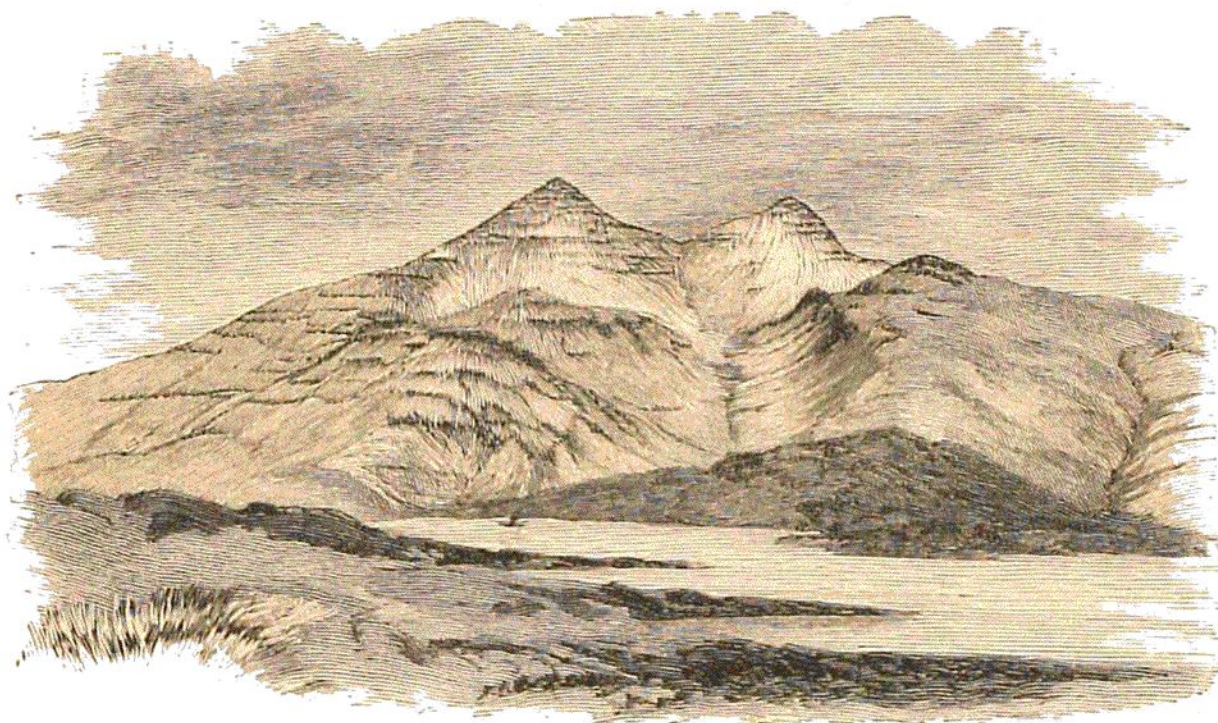


FIG. 31.—View of Ben More, Mull, from the south side of Loch Scriden.

remains preserved between the successive sheets of basalt in the Inner Hebrides.

In tracing back the history of the planing down of the general surface of the Highlands, we derive much light from an examination of the great Tertiary basaltic plateaux of the west. I have spoken of these as probably fragments of a once continuous plain of lava that stretched for many miles along the great valley, now chiefly covered by the Atlantic, between the Western Highlands and the chain of the Outer