

Hebrides. It becomes of importance, therefore, to determine how much they have suffered from denudation, for we thereby obtain some measure of the amount of erosion which the general area of the Highlands may have undergone since the early Tertiary periods.

Now, it is no exaggeration to say that of the vast lava streams which, to a depth of more than 3000 feet were poured out in the west of Scotland, only a group of scattered fragments remains. In Ben More, Mull, the loftiest of these fragments, we can walk over each bed of basalt from the sea-level to the mountain top, a height of 3169 feet (Fig. 31).

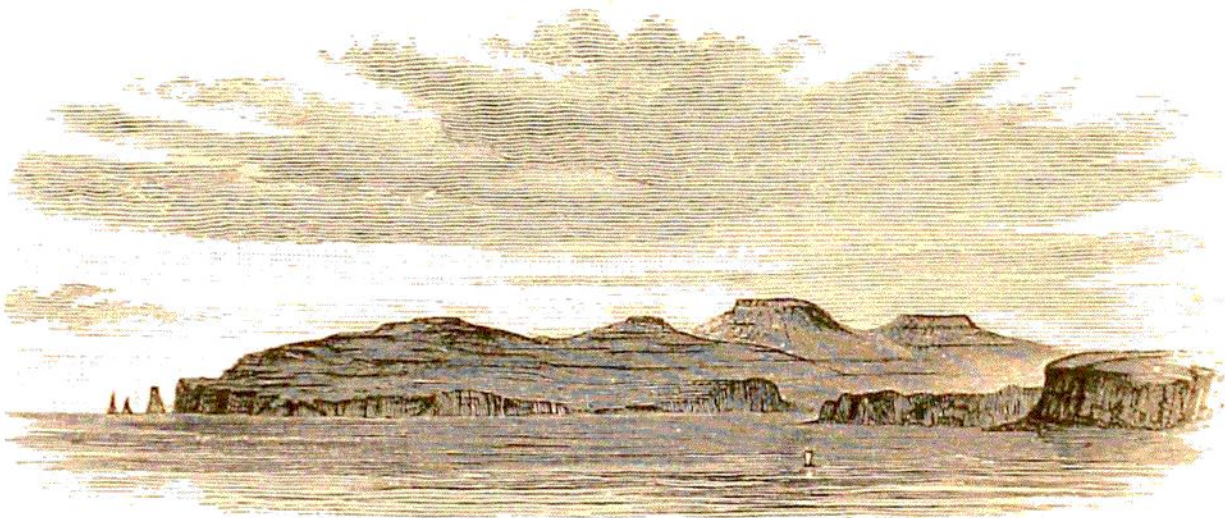


FIG. 32.—Macleod's Tables, Skye.

These beds present their truncated ends on all sides, and must obviously have extended far beyond the mere isolated cone to which they have been reduced. The two tabular hills, known as Macleod's Tables, which form such conspicuous landmarks in the north-west of Skye, rise to a height of 1600 feet, and are in like manner built up of horizontal lava beds which once spread away out into the Atlantic on one side, and over the hills of Skye on the other (Fig. 32). In Morven a little outlier of basalt caps the gneiss hill of Ben Iadain, and reaches a height of 1873 feet (Fig. 33). It looks far over Argyllshire, and that the basalt once