

the hill-tops at the south end of the island of Eigg, and forms the well-known Scur. Seen from the sea on the east side, this ridge rises as a lofty massive column, towering to the height of some 400 feet above the high ground on which it stands, and 1289 feet above the sea. Its sides are quite vertical, so much so, that if one has a steady enough head to stoop over the edge of the precipice he may see its base 400 feet below. What seems a broad and lofty tower, when looked at from the east, is really the

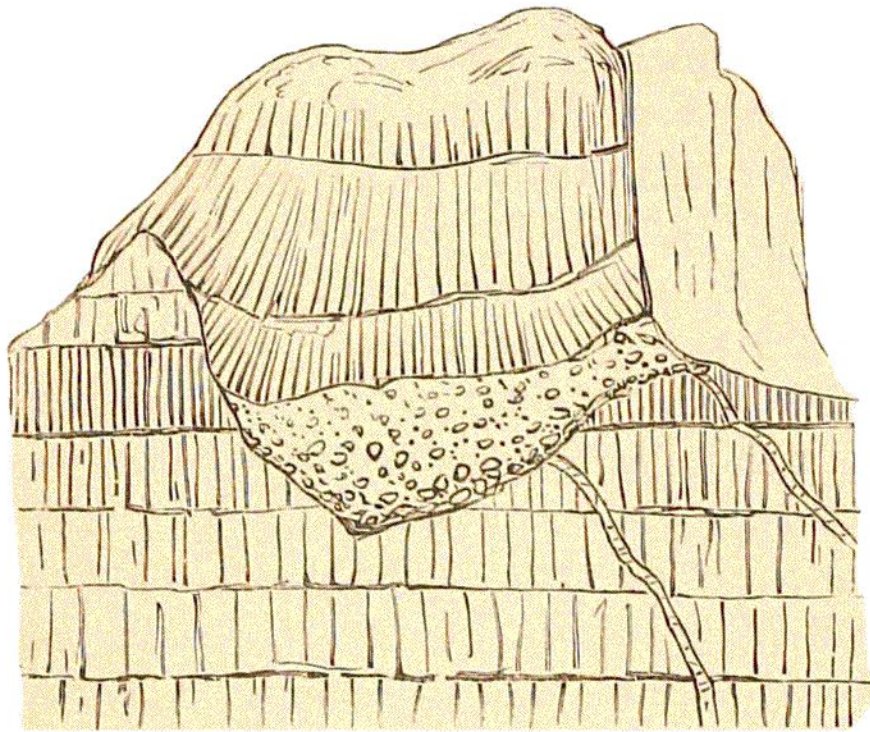


FIG. 36.—Section of west end of Scur of Eigg, showing the basalt sheets traversed by dykes and covered with an old river gravel which is buried under pitchstone.

abrupt end of a long narrow ridge, which widens out westward until it loses itself in a mass of rugged ground, abounding in little rock-basins filled with water. The Scur itself, with these broken heights into which it merges, consists of a black glassy rock known as pitchstone, almost everywhere columnar, the columns being sometimes piled up horizontally with their weathered ends exposed, sometimes slanting inwards or outwards, like a *chevaux de frise*, and often built round a hummock of rock, very much in the way