

or rocky declivities which form the sides of the one, run on to form the sides of the other. If we could depress the land below the present sea-level, and send the salt water far up into these inland glens, they too would become true fjords. If, on the other hand, we could upraise the land, the sea-lochs, emptied of their salt water, would become land-valleys, and it might in the end be impossible to say where the former limit of the tides had been. In each case, we should see

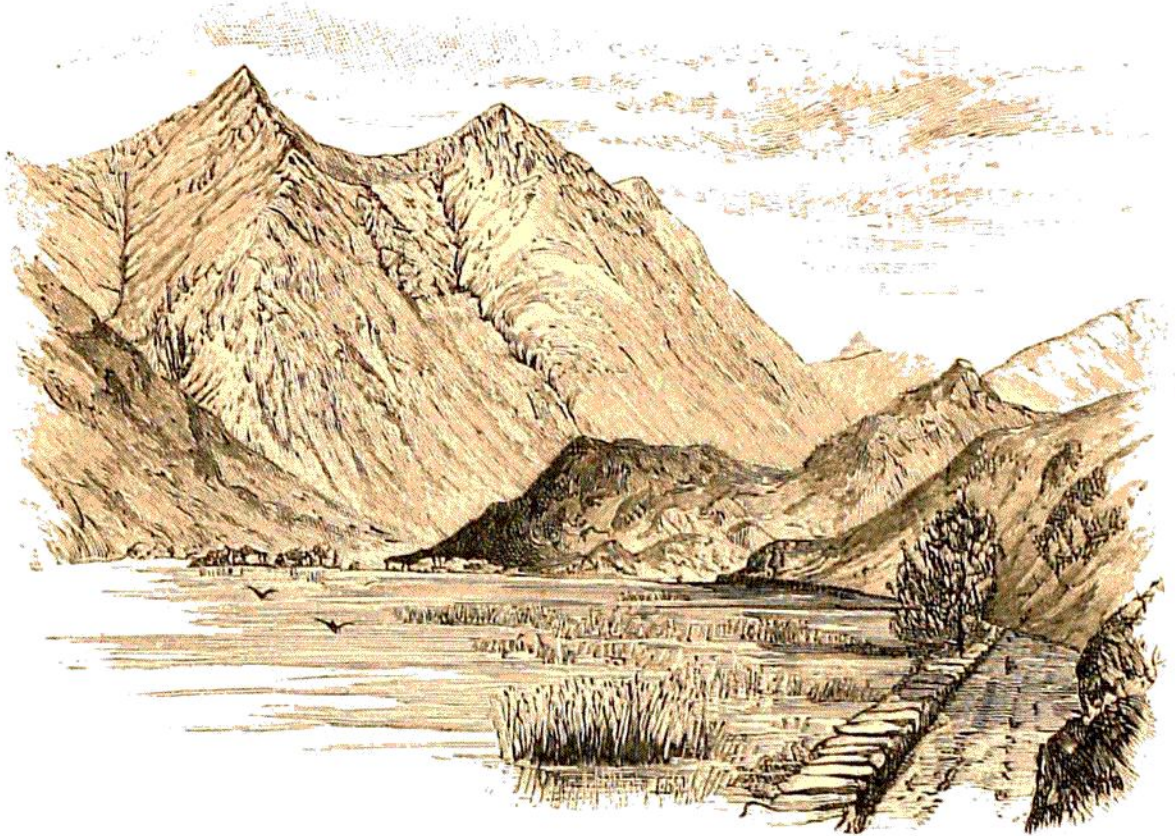


FIG. 41.—Head of Loch Duich. A fjord merging into the valley of Glen Shiel.

what is in truth one valley, part of it being submerged and part open to the sky.<sup>1</sup> The indented character of the western coast has been popularly ascribed to the unequal encroachments of the sea. But even a superficial acquaintance with the usual features of these sea-lochs ought to disprove such a notion. For it is well known that the inlets

<sup>1</sup> See Sir A. C. Ramsay's remarks to the same effect, in his paper on the origin of lakes.—*Quart. Jour. Geo. Soc.* xviii. p. 185.