

Grampians. But nowhere in the Highlands can the whole of the distinctive features of quartzite scenery be seen on so grand a scale as among the mountains of Islay and Jura. In the latter island, the quartz-rock rises into the group of lofty cones known as the Paps of Jura, 2571 feet above the sea which almost washes their base (Fig. 40). The prevailing colour is grey, save here and there where a mass glistens white, as if it were snow; and as the vegetation is exceedingly scanty, the character of the rock and its influence in the landscape can be seen to every advantage. The ascent of the mountains is impeded by the thick covering of loose angular rubbish, into which the quartzite weathers. But when once their summit is gained, the whole island with a wide panorama of sea and land beyond lies spread out as in a map. Nothing can exceed the distinctness with which the lines of stratification in the quartzite are traced on the cliffs

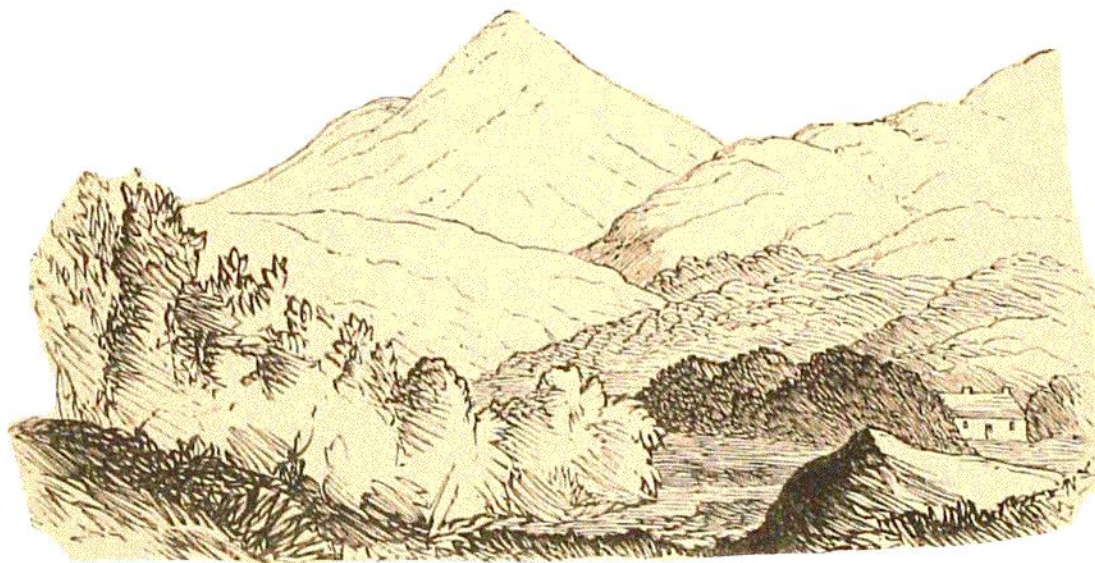


FIG. 45.—Outline of Shiehallien (a mountain of quartzite).

and along the ridges. We can follow almost the line of each separate bed of rock as it winds over hill and crag, valley and tarn. Here and there on the white cliffs, we detect the dark line of a basalt dyke, pursuing its way towards the north-west, alike over precipitous mountain and