

nature, possess a tame uniformity of outline which even their occasional great height hardly relieves. The traveller who crosses Ross-shire from Loch Broom to Dingwall, through the dreary Dirie More, will be able to realise this oppressive monotony, and to contrast it with the scarped and precipitous mountains that rise on the south round Loch Fannich. I do not know a better illustration of the effect of the softer schists in producing smooth-sloped hills than may be seen along the west side of the Firth of Clyde between the Kyles of Bute and the Gareloch. A band of clay-slate runs across the Island of Bute, skirts the firth by Innellan and Dunoon, crosses the mouth of Loch Long and the Gareloch, and strikes thence to Loch Lomond. It is easy to trace this strip of rock by the smooth undulating form of its hills, which remind us rather of the scenery of the Southern Uplands than of the Highlands. The slates, under the influence of the weather, crumble into small debris, and have no harder bands of sufficient thickness to form prominent features at the surface. Hence their tameness of contour. Behind them lies a region of hard schistose grits and fine conglomerates, which are evidently altered sedimentary rocks (*ante*, p. 121). The contrast between the rough craggy outlines of these masses and the tame features of the clay-slate is a familiar part of the scenery of the Clyde. The hard tough character of the grits and their tendency to break up along their joints into large blocks, and to shelve off in sheets and faces of naked stone, produce gnarled, craggy, and bossy forms on the declivities and a notched and splintered sky-line along the crests. It is to such harder grit bands that we owe the ruggedness of the mountains which sweep from the shores of Loch Fyne through Cowal, across the Holy Loch, Loch Goil, Argyll's Bowling Green, and Loch Long,