

undulating, save where some knob or hill of the rock below rises above it. Along a sea-cliff or in a river-bank, the more prominent features of the deposit can best be seen. It there forms a line of steep green bank, projecting at frequent intervals into massive turf-covered buttresses, and receding in the spaces between into grassy hollows, furrowed here and there by runnels from above. These strange rampart-like slopes have been entirely cut out by denudation. Their mode of origin, indeed, may be seen still in operation, for every winter loosens here and there a mass of the clay which, slipping down the bank, leaves a semicircular scar of raw clay above, as if a huge spadeful had been dug out of the slope. The fallen portion, with its covering of turf, continues to slide as the water trickles below it, but at last, if it does not reach the stream below, it becomes so far shielded by the coating of grass and weeds which creeps over it. It then remains one of many verdurous mounds and hummocks, mottling the sides and base of the declivity, like the ruins of a set of earthworks older than the steep *glacis* that rises behind them. A sloping bank of boulder-clay under the wasting hand of time thus assumes a curiously uneven outline. When the action that gave rise to its features ceases for a time, the covering of turf which the irregular surface puts on everywhere is trodden into narrow undulating terraces by the sheep. The confused series of grassy mounds and ridges thus produced looks so much like the work of man, as to have given rise to legends of giant's graves and fairy knowes, or to traditions of ancient camps and tumuli.

The influence of the boulder-clay as an element in the landscape, can nowhere be better seen in the region of the Highlands than along the sides of the Cromarty and Moray Firths. It forms there a smooth sloping platform from the