

bears a record of great changes in this part of the coast-line within the last few centuries. South of Fraserburgh rises the singular conical white quartzite Hill of Mormond, on the southern front of which the figure of a stag has been cut out of the layer of turf that coats the slopes. This white figure can be seen for many miles. From Fraserburgh westwards the shores are rocky but low, until the Old Red Sandstone sets in at Aberdour, when a noble range of precipices at once begins. Troup Head is a promontory of slate separated from the Old Red Sandstone by a fault. At Gamrie the sea is eating into the rocks of the Bay [59].

(4.) **Banff, Macduff, Portsoy.**—In this district also it is only the coast-line that offers any attraction to the tourist. The coast east of Banff presents a succession of admirable sections of clay-slate, crumpled into intricate foldings, which appear both on the cliff and in detached islets and skerries. The shore to the west of Banff includes the well-known locality of Portsoy, and is full of interest to the student of petrography, but offers less attraction to the inquirer into the origin of topography. The Old Red Sandstone outliers on the coast at Cullen are singular relics of that formation, known locally as the 'Kings of Cullen.' The highest eminence in the neighbourhood, the Bin of Cullen, is a good example of the conical form assumed by a mass of quartzite [204, 353].

### 13. ABERDEEN TO INVERNESS

This is rather a long and uninteresting journey, and the trains are slow; but there are some points of attraction on the route. As far as Inverury the railway follows the line of the River Don. It then turns westward, and keeps to the north of the granite ridge of Ben-na-Chie (1696 feet), the highest summit in the north of Aberdeenshire [17]. Descending into Strath Bogie it commands a view to the left of the Tap o' Noth (1851 feet), another of the landmarks in the north-eastern region of Scotland. At the base of the eastern front of that hill lies one of the patches of Old Red Sandstone which throw so curious a light on the history of the denudation of the Highlands [138]. At Huntly we enter the valley of the Deveron, but soon turn westwards, and passing Keith, descend by the valley of Mulben upon the flat alluvial haughs of the River