

and the traveller enters upon a typical district of the most ancient rock of the British Islands [111]. From Scourie the red sandstone cliffs [113] of Handa Island should be visited. In the drive from Loch Laxford to Durness fine views are obtained of the great line of quartzite escarpments from Arkle northwards. The traveller who reaches Durness should not leave without taking boat to Cape Wrath, under the great sandstone cliffs [74], and seeing the western sea-wall of Archæan gneiss south of the lighthouse [Fig. 15]. He can arrange to drive back from Cape Wrath. If the weather is suitable he should also view by boat the great quartzite cliffs of the Whiten Head. The moraines at the head of Loch Eribol [272] can be seen if he drives round that inlet.

(3.) To Tongue.—This traverse is chiefly interesting from the views it affords of Ben Klibrick, one of the most imposing schist mountains of the north-west of Scotland, and of Ben Loyal, the most picturesque mass of granite in the same region [213]. From Tongue a good coast-road leads eastwards into Caithness.

19. INVERNESS TO THURSO, WICK, AND THE ORKNEY AND SHETLAND ISLANDS

The line of railway to Lairg has been already described. Quitting the valley of the Shin the line turns eastward down Strath Fleet, and running on the platform of raised beach at the base of the old Red Sandstone hills [139, 216] turns northward along the flat selvage of ground made here by the Jurassic rocks. At Brora conspicuous glacier-moraines come down to the sea [271]. At Helmsdale the railway leaves the coast and strikes into the interior. The quartzite mass of the Scarabin Hills forms the highest ground to the right. To the left, as the train moves onward, Ben Griam [140] comes into sight, and as the line turns eastward across the wide dreary moor of Caithness the giant cones of Morven [139] and the Maiden Pap close in the southern distance.

The county of Caithness offers little attraction to the geologist or the lover of scenery, except along its coast, which is eminently picturesque. The coast to the south of Wick [62] abounds in striking cliffs and stacks. Those to the west of