

Sutors, into an inflection of the shore which intervenes between the town and the hill of Cromarty. When the tide fell, and the bottom of the bay was laid bare, we found it occupied for many acres by the stranded ice, mass crowded upon mass, so that scarce an interstice could be seen between them, and all occupying the horizontal position of their original formation. As the tide rose, however, and the night fell, the gale freshened into a hurricane; the ice, jambed against the steep shore on the one hand, and exposed to the heavy roll of the waves on the other, began to *pack*, not so much by rising, as in a choked up river, mass over mass, as by rising on edge; and in the morning, when the tide had again fallen, we found it occupying, not the whole, as before, but only the inner portion of the bay, and uptilted on edge, for roods together, like, in short, the uptilted Grauwacke slates of the Pentlands. And may not, I asked, as the scene rose fresh in memory amid the recesses of the hills, — may not I be now witnessing the somewhat similar results of some tremendous earth-storm, in which the molten waves of the abyss first broke up the consolidated but still comparatively thin crust of our planet, as ice is broken up under the joint operations of storm and thaw; and then packed into this corner, as the ice-floats were packed into the little bay, those ruins of the surface which, while yet unbroken, and in the horizontal position, must have extended over a much greater space? It does seem, from the appearance of many of our more dislocated and older formations, that there came a time in the history of the globe in which there was, if I may so speak, no longer room to spread them out, and they had to be compressed, in consequence, into many a fold and wrinkle. Are we to infer that these ancient robings of the earth, with their many convolutions, which, as it were, hang loose about it, indicate a shrinking in its general bulk? or are they merely but locally too large for the portions of surface which they oc-