

M'Culloch estimates the thickness of the Old Red of the west coast, in his description of the hills scooped out of it by the denuding agencies, at from one to three thousand feet.

*Above* the Red Sandstone there occurs a bed of quartz rock, several hundred feet in thickness, which bears in some of its layers a pure white, in others a flesh-colored tint. It is a stratified rock, but less regularly so than the sandstone which it overlies; and, though hard, splinty, and indestructible in all its strata, it is decidedly mechanical in its composition. This indurated deposit must have at one time existed as a quartzose sand, — at another as an ordinary sandstone. Its upper strata are of a red color, mottled with white; and in one of these the white portions take the form of minute cylinders, vertically arranged across the stratum, like jars in a case. Where exposed to the weather, the red parts of the stone waste from around these, leaving them standing up over the surface, as the little pipes in the cistern of a shower-bath stand up over the plane of the bottom; and these curiously relieved cylinders M'Culloch regarded as probably organic. I could, however, find no grounds whatever for the conclusion, as in their mechanical structure they differ in no respect from the red matrix which incloses them. They serve, however, to remind one of similar appearances in the Old Red Sandstone of the east coast. This bed of quartz rock forms some of the more picturesque mountains of Assynt. Seen from the inn at Inch-na-damph, the tall hill of Spike-an-Quenaig, which is entirely composed of it, is one of the most remarkable in a landscape which, for the bold grace of its features, is scarcely surpassed in Scotland. An outline of flowing curvature divests it of the stiffness necessarily associated with the perfectly conical form. It swells slightly outwards where the architect would place his cornice, and then terminates in a horizontal table of small extent, resembling the plane of a pedestal. The entire hill is in truth a