

tained there was whisky to be sold ; and then entered upon a tract of scenery wholly different in its composition and character from that through which our journey had previously lain.

There runs along the west coast of Scotland, from the island of Rum to the immediate neighborhood of Cape Wrath, a formation laid down by Macculloch, in his Geological Map of the Kingdom, as Old Red Sandstone, but which underlies formations deemed primary,—two of these of quartz rock, and a third of that unfossiliferous limestone in which the huge Cave of Smoo is hollowed, and to which the Assynt marbles belong. The system, which, taken as a whole,—quartz-rock, lime, and sandstone,—corresponds bed for bed with the Lower Old Red of the east coast, and is probably of a highly metamorphic example of that great deposit, exhibits its fullest development in Assynt, where all its four component beds are present. In the tract on which we now entered, it presents only two of these,—the lower quartz-rock, and the underlying red sandstone ; but wherever any of its members appear, they present unique features,—marks of enormous denudation, and a bold style of landscape altogether its own ; and in now entering upon it for the first time, I was much impressed by its extraordinary character. Loch Maree, one of the wildest of our Highland lakes,—and at this time scarce at all known to the tourist,—owes to it all that is peculiar in its appearance,—its tall pyramidal quartz mountains, that rise at one stride, steep, and well nigh as naked as the old Pyramids, from nearly the level of the sea, to heights on which at midsummer the snows of winter gleam white in streaks and patches, and a picturesque sandstone tract of precipitous hills, which flanks its western shore, and bore at this period the remains of one of the old pine forests. A continuous wall of gneiss mountains, that runs along the eastern side of the lake, sinks sheer into its brown depths, save at one point, where a level tract, half-encircled by precipices, is occupied by fields and copsewood, and bears in the midst a white mansion-house ; the blue expanse of the lake greatly broadens in its lower reaches ; and a group of partially submerged hillocks, that resemble the forest-covered ones