

and strewed over by shells that were thrown ashore by the last tide, and that lived only a few weeks ago. And, rising over the lower, as over the upper flat, we see a continuous escarpment, which marks where, in the present age, during the height of stream tides, the sea and the land meet; just as the upper willow-crested escarpment indicates where they met of old. The two escarpments and the two gently sloping planes at their base are repetitions of the same phenomena, save that the upper escarpment and upper plane are somewhat softer in their outline than the lower,—an effect of the wear of the elements, and of the accumulation of the vegetable mould. There is as thorough an identity between them as between two contiguous steps of a stair, covered, the one by a patch of brown, and the other by a patch of green, in the pattern of the stair-carpet. There are other parts of our Scottish shores in which the old coast line is of a much bolder character than anywhere in this neighbourhood, and the plane at its base of greater breadth. On the Forfarshire coast, the Dundee and Arbroath Railway runs along the level margin, once a sea-bottom, which at one point, opposite the parish church of Barry, is at least two miles in breadth, and the old coast line rises from thirty to fifty feet over it. It is strongly marked on the southern side of the Dornoch Firth, immediately below and for several miles to the east of the town of Tain, where it attains a breadth of from one to two miles, and where the old sea-margin, rising over the cottage-mottled plain below in a series of jutting headlands, with green bosky bays between, strikes even the least practised eye as possessed of all the characteristic peculiarities of a true coast line. It is scarce less marked in the neighbourhood of Cromarty, and on the opposite shores of the Cromarty Firth, in the parish of Nigg. It runs along by much the greater portion of the eastern coast of Sutherland; and forms at the head of Loch Fleet, in the neighbourhood of Dornoch, a long withdrawing firth, bounded by picturesque