

and afterwards that the exposed portion should be irregularly cut away and destroyed by processes of long-continued waste and decay, partly sub-aërial and partly marine.

The remaining areas in Great Britain occupied by Lower Silurian rocks lie in Scotland. The southern district extends from St. Abbs Head on the east to Portpatrick on the west coast, forming the uplands of the Lammermuir, Moorfoot, and Carrick Hills, fig. 55, p. 287. They chiefly consist of thick banded strata of grits and slaty beds, much contorted, and in the western part of the area, where bosses of granite and other igneous rocks occur, they are often metamorphosed. The fossils which they contain prove them to belong to the Llandeilo, and Bala or Caradoc series.

In Wigtonshire great blocks of gneiss, granite, &c. are imbedded in the dark slaty strata near Cornwall, and similar large blocks occur in Carrick in Ayrshire. Where they came from I cannot say, for all the nearest granite bosses in Kirkcudbrightshire and Arran are of later date than the strata amid which these erratic blocks are found. I therefore incline to the opinion that they must have been derived from some Laurentian region, of which parts of the mainland and of the Outer Hebrides then formed portions, and when I first saw them I could, and still can conceive of no agent capable of transporting such large blocks, and dropping them into the graptolite-bearing mud, save that of icebergs. One of the blocks measured by me near Cornwall, in 1865, is 9 feet in length, and they are of all sizes, from an inch or two up to several feet in diameter. Many persons have considered, and will still consider, this hypothesis of their origin to be overbold, but I do not shrink from repeating it, and I may mention that the same view