

proved by Professor Geikie, runs at the base of that so-called chain right across Scotland, from the neighbourhood of Stonehaven on the east coast, to Loch Lomond on the west. Its effect is to throw down the Old Red Sandstone on the south-east, partly against the Silurian rocks, and partly against volcanic tufas and other strata belonging to the Old Red Sandstone itself. From that region, nearly the whole of the Highlands, from the Grampians to the north coast of Scotland consists of Lower Silurian rocks often intensely contorted, and formed of quartz-rocks and flagstones, gneissic and micaceous schists, clay slate, and chlorite slate. Associated with these, there are certain limestones, sometimes crystalline, but where less altered, sometimes fossiliferous, fig. 55, p. 287. One of these, near the base of the Silurian series, runs in a long band from Loch Erriboll, on the north coast, southward to Loch Broom, where for a space of about fifteen miles it is lost, to reappear between the east side of Sleugach and Loch Carron. The same limestone is well seen in the Island of Lismore in Loch Linnhe, and here and there on the sides of Strathmore or the Great Glen (a line of fault), through which the Caledonian Canal was constructed. Elsewhere in the Highlands, further east, streaks of limestone occur. Immense masses of granite here and there rise in the midst of the strata, one of the smaller of which forms great part of Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in Britain, 4,406 feet in height, and another the splendid peaks of the Island of Arran. No interbedded igneous rocks have yet been found among the Silurian rocks of Scotland.

The strata of the Highlands, not of Lower Silurian age, are the Laurentian gneiss and Cambrian conglomerates and sandstones already mentioned, intersected by