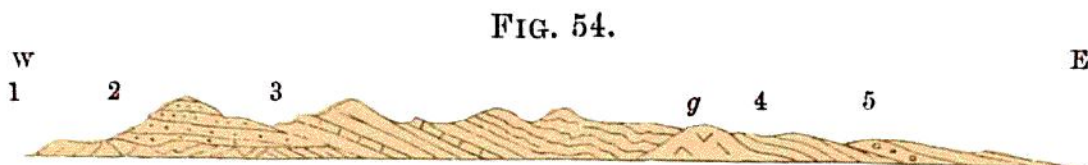


facts connected with the greater physical features of Scotland, omitting minor details.

In the extreme north of Scotland, in Sutherland and Caithness, the manner in which the strata generally lie is shown in the following diagram. (*See Map, line 4.*)



I have already mentioned that, in some of the Western Isles, from the Lewes to Bara, and in the north-west of the mainland of Scotland, from Cape Wrath to Gairloch, the country, to a great extent, consists of certain low tracts formed of Laurentian gneiss (No. 1), twisted and contorted in a remarkable manner. Upon this old gneiss the Cambrian rocks (2) lie, rising often into mountains, which face the west in bold escarpments, and slope more gently towards the east. These strata frequently lie at low angles very *unconformably* upon the old Laurentian gneissic rocks; the meaning of this being, that the latter were disturbed, contorted, and extremely denuded, before the deposition of what I believe to be the fresh-water, the Cambrian strata that lie upon them. The bottom beds of the latter consist of conglomerates of rounded pebbles, partly derived from the waste of the Laurentian gneiss, which, therefore, is so old, that it had been metamorphosed and was land before the deposition of the Cambrian beds. Upon these unaltered Cambrian rocks, and again quite unconformably, the fossiliferous Lower Silurian strata (3) lie, sometimes in the manner shown in the diagram; and conclusions, regarding upheaval and denudation, may be drawn from this second unconformity, similar