

valley glaciers. Though the general form of the hills and valleys remains now much as it was when the last lingering glacier melted away, there have been stupendous changes since then in the shaping of the precipices. At that time the Old Man still formed a portion of the solid cliff. It is in the ensuing interval that this impressive landmark has been left during the destruction of the surrounding masses. Long may he be able to stand his ground! When his last hour comes, as come it must, may some reverential geologist, duly impressed with a sense of the might of denudation in the sculpture of the land, be there to pay the last honours to his dust!

In the scenery of the British Islands no geological formation plays a more varied part than the Old Red Sandstone, and nowhere can its characteristic landscapes be more instructively seen than in these far northern districts of Scotland. In Hoy, for example, the upper sandstones rise into a group of smooth dome-shaped hills, which, from all sides, stand out in striking contrast to every other form of ground within sight. In Caithness the lower sandstones and conglomerates have concentrated all their efforts on the production of the one solitary mountain of that county—Morven—a graceful cone, which so towers above the moors on the one side and the sea on the other as to form one of the most notable landmarks in the north of Scotland. But on the coast-line, where the rocks assert most strongly their individuality of character, swept bare of all protecting soil by the restless and resistless surge, their minutest points of structure are so exposed as to affect even the most delicate lineaments of the cliffs. The two fundamental structures, bedding and jointing, are developed with a trenchant emphasis which gives a dominant character to the scenery of the shores of Caithness and Orkney. Walls of flagstone,