

apprehend that it will by and by be blown away altogether, leaving Findhorn that now is to share at some future period the fate of its predecessors.' ¹

Even into the upper reaches of the Moray Firth the ocean carries with it its resistless power of demolition. Thus, encroachments that had been made on the coast round Fort-George early in this century, were such as to raise fears for the safety of the fortress. Some of the projecting bastions, previously at a distance from the sea, were then in danger of being undermined by the water; and it was found necessary to break the force of the waves by erecting a sort of *chevaux de frise* in front of the walls. On the north shore of the Beaully Firth, a number of sepulchral cairns have been engulfed by the sea. One of these stands fully 400 yards within tide-mark, and it has been calculated that an area of not less than ten square miles, now flooded by the advancing tide, has been the site of the dwellings of the ancient cairn-builders. ²

The long sheltered estuary of the Cromarty Firth, so thoroughly land-locked that it communicates with the open sea only through a narrow channel between the headlands of the two Sutors, might be supposed to be free from any risk of attack by the waves. Yet even there the same tale of waste is told. It was said by Hugh Miller that the tide in his time flowed twice every twenty-four hours over the spot where a hundred years before there stood a pedlar's shop.

To the traveller who skirts the north-eastern sea-board of Scotland, one of the most conspicuous landmarks is the cone of Morven, which rises on the far north-western horizon, and seems to terminate the range of uplands of eastern Ross-shire and Sutherland (Fig. 27). Beyond that conspicu-

¹ *New Stat. Acc. Scotland, Nairn*, p. 203.

² Wilson's *Prehistoric Annals of Scotland*, i. p. 19.