

the islands have been cut. The same plain is prolonged into the southern part of the Shetland Islands, but the greater part of that group consists of rocks like those of the Highlands, and repeats on a minor scale many of the characteristics of Highland scenery, but with the additional peculiarity and attractiveness which are given by the singular forms into which the rocks are cut by the Atlantic breakers that are ever chafing these northern shores.

### GEOLOGICAL STRUCTURE.

The line already referred to as drawn from Stonehaven on the coast of Kincardine in a south-western direction across Forfarshire, Perthshire, Stirlingshire, and Dumbar-tonshire, to the Firth of Clyde, divides the Highlands from the broad Midland Valley drained by the Tay, Forth, and Clyde. It is a well-marked geological line, for it coincides with the boundary between the old crumpled gneisses and schists of the northern half of the kingdom and the conglomerates, red sandstones, and volcanic rocks of the broad lowland valley. It marks the position of one of the great dislocations of our islands. The rocks on its southern side have been broken through and placed on edge against the flank of those on the north side. Thus it is both a good geological line and a well-marked limit for two very different types of scenery. To the south-east, lie the gently undulating hills and wide agricultural plains of the Old Red Sandstone ; to the north-west a sea of mountains rolls away to Cape Wrath in wave after wave of gneiss, schist, quartzite, granite, and other crystalline masses.

This mountainous tract, forming the Highlands of Scotland, is bordered on the north-east with a belt of Old Red Sandstone which underlies most of the strip of fertile lowland