protected them. Some greenish sandstones, shown by Professor Judd, from their characteristic fossils, to be the equivalents of the Upper Greensand of the south of England, are found on the south and west coasts of Mull and on the west coast of Argyllshire. They are covered by white sandstones, and these by white chalk and marly beds, which represent the Upper Chalk of England. Enormous numbers of flints and also less abundant fragments of chalk occur in the glacial deposits of the counties bordering the Moray Firth. These transported relics show that the Chalk must once have been in place at no great distance, if indeed it did not actually cover part of Aberdeenshire and the neighbouring counties.

Above the highest Secondary rocks on the west coast come terraced plateaux of basalt, which spread out over wide areas in Skye, Eigg, Mull, and Morven, and form most of the smaller islets of the chain of the Inner Hebrides. These plateaux—fragments probably of one great volcanic plain—are composed of nearly horizontal sheets of basalt-rocks, columnar, amorphous, or amygdaloidal, which in Mull attain a thickness of more than three thousand feet. They are prolonged southwards into Antrim, where similar basalts, overlying Secondary strata, cover a large territory. Occasional beds of tuff are intercalated among these lavas, and likewise seams of fine clay or shale, which have preserved the remains of numerous land-plants, and which with their associated gravelly deposits point to the existence of lakes or streams that gathered on the weathered surfaces of basalt before these were buried under the next lava-deluge. These fossils, besides indicating that the eruptions were sub-aërial, show, on comparison with those elsewhere found among older Tertiary strata, that they probably belong to what is now called the Oligocene stage of the Tertiary series of