

The same deposit runs southward from Sutherland along the eastern coast of Ross and the shores of the Moray Firth. It stretches up the valley of the Great Glen¹ and rises in Mealfourvonie (Meall Fuar-mhonadh, rounded hill of the cold moor) to a height of 2284 feet. Thence it sweeps eastwards along the sea-board of the counties of Inverness, Nairn, Elgin, Banff, and Aberdeen, and detached portions are found thirty or forty miles in the interior. Some of these outliers are bounded on one or more sides by faults, and probably owe their preservation to this circumstance, as will be referred to farther on in connection with the denudation of the Old Red Sandstone. The highest of them is that which runs up the valley of the River Avon above Tomintoul, where it reaches a height of upwards of 1300 feet above the sea. The coarseness of the conglomerate at this locality is remarkable. Huge blocks of the schists and other crystalline rocks of the district, piled up in the conglomerate there, bear emphatic witness to the abrasion of the Highlands during, as well as before, the time of the Old Red Sandstone. Whether, therefore, we look on these outliers as marking the sites of inlets from a great lake, which at that ancient period lay to the north, or of little independent lake-basins, they show that the platform of the Highlands had been extensively eroded before the conglomerates of the Old Red Sandstone were deposited.

Along the southern border of the Highlands, the evidence is less obtrusive, but perhaps not less definite. From sea to sea, the Highland mountains are there flanked with the Old Red Sandstone, in low rolling plains that creep up to the base of the hills, but sometimes, as in the

¹ This valley, therefore, must be as old as the Lower Old Red Sandstone.