

conspicuous hills, they sometimes contribute by no means an unimportant share to the local peculiarities of the landscapes in which they lie. The strip of these rocks that here and there skirts the coast, stands often in strong contrast to the surface of the schists that rise from it. Thus along the shores of the Moray Firth, the brown rough mountains of the interior are fringed with a border of fertile ground, marking where the Old Red Sandstone takes the place of the schists. Farther north, a similar contrast shows where the Jurassic sandstones and shales of Sutherlandshire run as a narrow selvage along the coast, at the base of the line of rounded bare conglomerate hills which surmount them. On the west side of the island also, the Liassic and Oolitic strata, owing to the comparative richness of their soil and their low level, are sharply marked off from the rugged mountains of schist, red sandstone, or granite, which surround them. But, undoubtedly, the most marked contrast in form and colour along the eastern and western shores of the Highlands is made by the terraces of the raised beaches. These level platforms are usually carpeted with grass, or covered with cultivated fields, and run for short distances along the bases of the dark rocky and heathery hills, in bays and such sheltered positions as have protected them. The traveller up the west coast of Scotland encounters many examples of this feature as he sails along. He will, no doubt, remember the singular green terrace that projects into the middle of Loch Linnhe at Corran Ferry, the platform of verdant sward at Ardtornish Castle in the Sound of Mull, and the remarkable succession of such platforms on the Argyllshire Coast between Toward Point and the mouth of Loch Striven.

In concluding this chapter, I wish to refer to the influence of geological structure in determining the general