

the aspect of that ancient land. The long-continued passage of the ice across it did much to remove such irregularities and smooth the general surface. But though the ice abraded the valleys, it did not make them. Keeping in recollection, therefore, that hill and valley were grouped into their present arrangement before the ice began to settle down upon them, let us look for a little at the evidence from which this strange chapter in the country's history is deciphered.

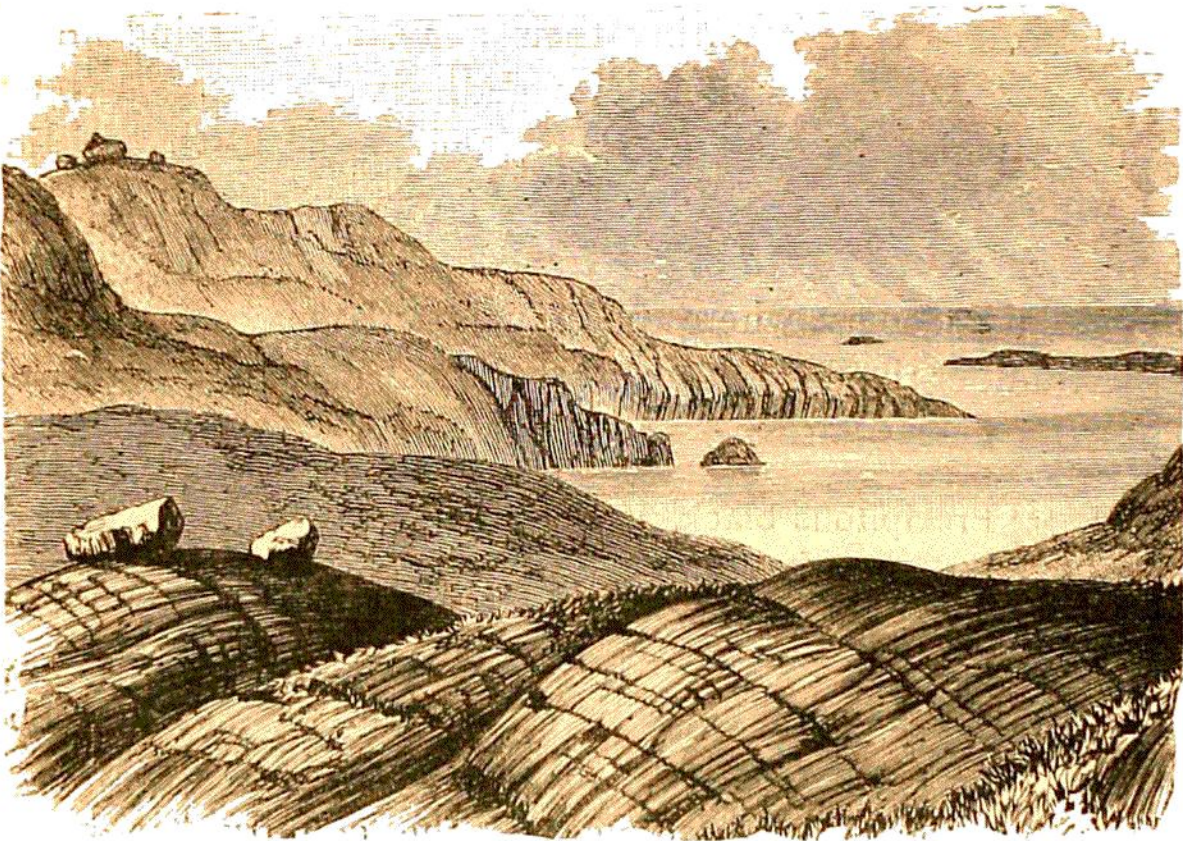


FIG. 54.—Ice-worn rocks, Rispond, Sutherland.

The surface of Scotland, like that of Ireland and of the northern half of England, as well as the whole of Scandinavia and Northern Europe, is distinguished from more southern countries by a peculiar contour, visible almost everywhere, irrespective of the nature of the rock (Fig. 54). This contour consists in a rounding and smoothing of the hills and valleys into long flowing outlines. What were no