

also a striking feature of the land-locked sea-loch at that place [82]. To the west beyond Eigg the huge dark gabbro-cones of Rum rise out of the sea. Northward, if the day is fine, the whole range of the Coolin and Red Hills of Skye [214] comes into view as the steamer turns past the northern precipice of Eigg and makes straight for Skye. From this part of the course, also, the long level line of the Highland table-land can be advantageously seen [128, 132]. Keeping Rum to the left hand, and the southern point of Skye to the right, the steamer, on certain days, steers northward for Loch Scavaig, and casts anchor at the head of that picturesque fjord. Time is allowed for landing and seeing Loch Coruisk, and the opportunity ought on no account to be missed [229, 274].

Returning past the headland of Strathaird, with its abundant basalt-dykes traversing the pale Jurassic sandstones, the steamer makes for the Sound of Sleat, in traversing which good views are afforded into the recesses of Lochs Nevis and Hourn, two of the wildest sea-inlets in the West Highlands. In the Kyles of Skye the passage is so narrow and tortuous that at first the traveller can hardly believe he is still sailing on a branch of the ocean. The scenery in Loch Alsh and around Loch Duich is characteristic of the mica schists of the west of Inverness-shire [183, 209]. Beyond Kyle Akin we can observe some marked contrasts of scenery due to differences of geological structure. In front the low green flat island of Pabba consists of Lias shales. Beyond it rise the red sandstone hills of Scalpa. To the north similar sandstones form the Croulin Isles, and tower into the hills of Applecross. The Red Hills above Broadford [214] are well seen as the steamer enters Broadford Bay.

Beyond Scalpa lies Raasay, the highest point on which, the Dun Can, is a conspicuous outlier of basalt, and remains as a monument of the enormous denudation which this region has undergone. Looking up Loch Sligachan the traveller can contrast the surface of the basalt plateau [125] on the north side of that inlet with the great granitoid cone of Glamich on the south, and the dark peaks of the Coolins beyond the head of the loch [214, 215]. The cliffs of Skye, south and north of Portree are good examples of the manner in which the Jurassic strata have been buried under and preserved by the basalt-sheets of the plateaux [125].

Portree is a good centre for the exploration of the scenery