

Dikes are veins of eruptive rock, filling vertical or highly-inclined fissures, and are so named on account of their resemblance to walls (*Scotice*, dikes). Their sides are often as parallel and perpendicular as those of built walls, the resemblance to human workmanship being heightened by the numerous joints which, intersecting each other along the face of a dike, remind us of well-fitted masonry. Where the surrounding rock has decayed, the dikes may be seen projecting above ground exactly like walls (Fig. 294); indeed, in many parts of the west of Scotland they are made use of for inclosures. The material of the dikes has in other

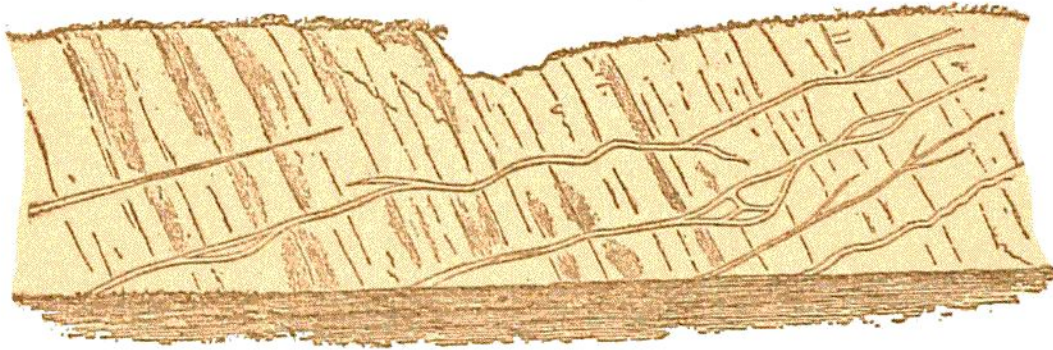


Fig. 293.—“Contemporaneous Veins” in diabase.

cases decayed, and deep ditch-like hollows are left to mark their sites. The coast-lines of many of the Inner Hebrides and of the Clyde Islands furnish numerous admirable examples of both kinds of scenery.

The term dike may be applied to some of the wall-like intrusions of quartz-porphry, elvanite, and even of granite, but it is more typically illustrated among the basic and intermediate igneous rocks such as basalt, diabase, andesite, diorite, etc., while occasionally dikes may be observed of even tuff and volcanic agglomerate.<sup>30</sup> Veins have been in-

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<sup>30</sup> Some remarkable examples of sandstone-dikes have been described from various districts of North America, ranging from a mere film to eight feet broad and varying from 200 yards to upward of nine miles in length. They have been