stand out like the advanced pickets of the land amid the ceaseless turmoil of the breakers. The district, as shown on the map, presents nearly a triangular form — the Pentland Frith and the German Ocean describing two of its sides, while the base is formed by the line of boundary which separates it from the county of Sutherland.

Now, in a geological point of view, this angle may be regarded as a vast pyramid, rising perpendicularly from the basis furnished by the primary rocks of the latter county, and presenting newer beds and strata as we ascend, until we reach the apex. The line from south to north in the angle — from Morvheim to Dunnet-head — corresponds to the line of ascent from the top to the bottom of the pyramid. The first bed, reckoning from the base upwards, — the ground tier of the masonry, if I may so speak, — is the great conglomerate. It runs along the line of boundary from sea to sea, — from the Ord of Caithness on the east, to Portskerry on the north and rises, as it approaches the primary hills of Sutherland, into a lofty mountain chain of bold and serrated outline, which attains its greatest elevation in the hill of Morvheim. This great conglomerate bed, the base of the system, is represented in the Cromarty section, under the Northern Sutor, by a bed two hundred and fifteen feet in thickness. The second tier of masonry in the pyramid, and which also runs in a nearly parallel line from sea to sea, is composed mostly of a coarse red and yellowish sandstone, with here and there beds of pebbles enclosed, and here and there deposits of green earth and red marl. It has its representative in the Cromarty section, in a bed of red and yellow arenaceous stone, one hundred and fourteen feet six inches in thickness. These two inferior beds possess but one character, — they are composed of the same materials, with merely this difference, that the rock-