

of the discoverer of carbonic acid, I could not but reflect on the curious irony of Nature, that has furnished in the corrosion of his monument her own testimony to the truth of his discovery. As the result of my inquiries, I found that in such a climate as that of Scotland, marble tombs freely exposed to the weather are destroyed in less than a century. The rate of superficial disintegration amounts sometimes to about a third of an inch in that time. The limestones and marbles which occur so abundantly in the

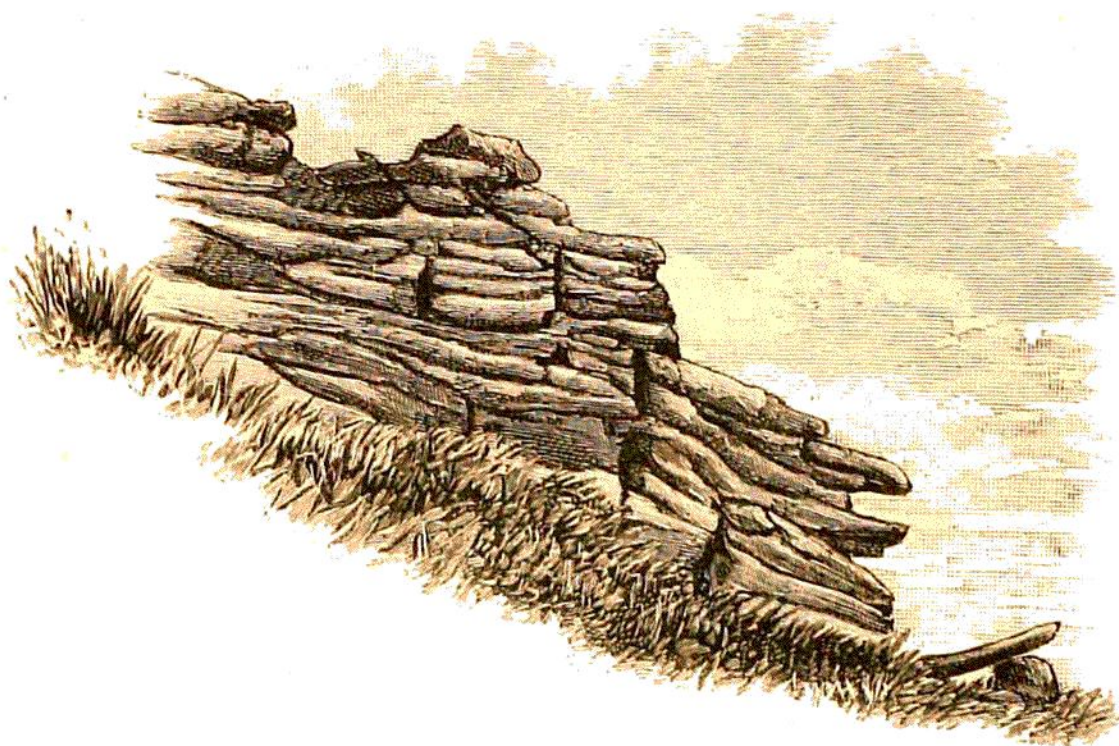


FIG. 1.—Granite weathering along its joints near the top of Ben na Chie.
Aberdeenshire.

Highlands and Lowlands must thus be liable to great and rapid decay.¹

Sandstones being largely made use of for building and monumental purposes, many opportunities are afforded of examining their mode of weathering. The more compact and siliceous kinds are remarkably durable, retaining

¹ See an essay on Rock Weathering measured by the decay of tombstones, in my *Geological Sketches at Home and Abroad*, p. 182.