

flat beaches of sand. Laid bare by the recession of the tide, and gradually dried on the surface, the sand is lifted up by the wind and carried landwards, where it gathers into dunes of wavy ridge and undulating hollow, which, like the crests and troughs of a billowy sea, run, in a general sense, parallel with the coast-line. Many creeks and wide bays along the coast-line of Scotland furnish illustrations of the

‘ Sand-built ridge
Of heaped hills that mound the sea.’

Beginning at the far north of the kingdom we find some striking dunes at the mouth of the Kyle of Durness

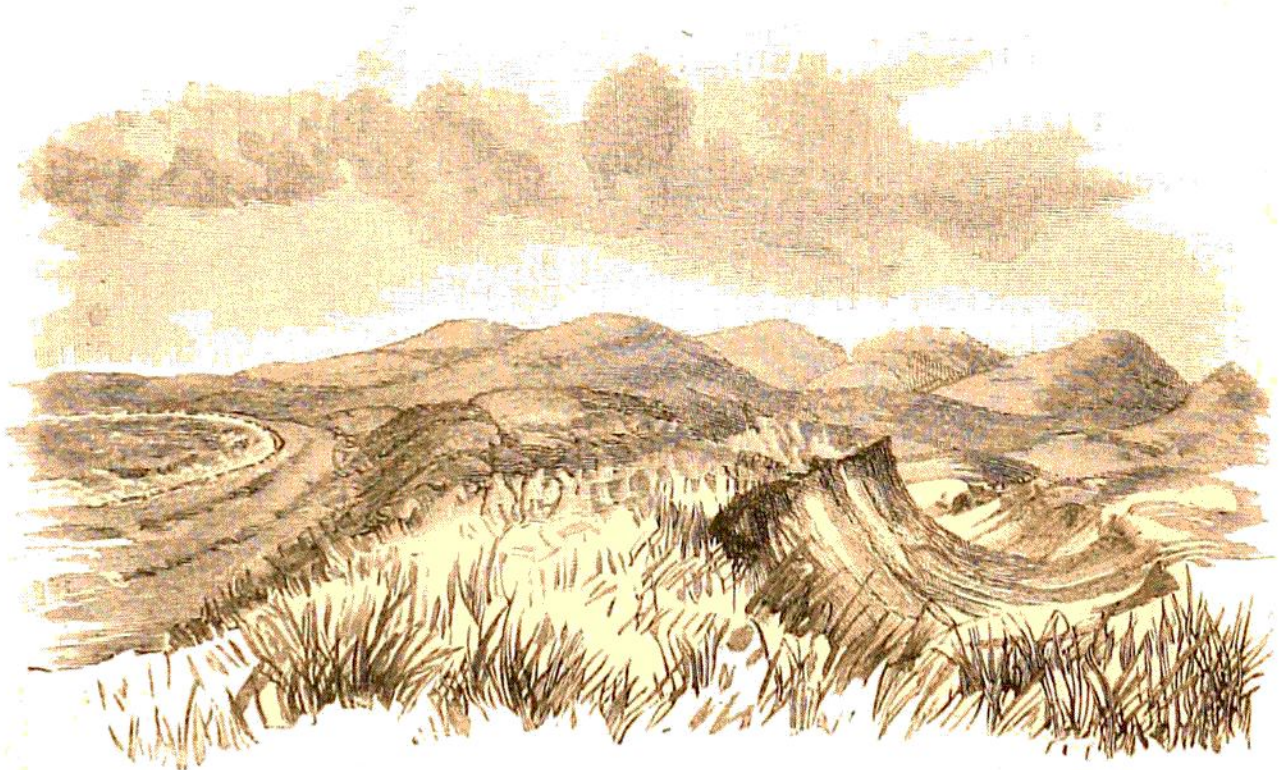


FIG. 4.—Sand-dunes near Durness.

(Fig. 4). Another strip of blown sand skirts part of the Dornoch Firth, and a still more extensive tract on the Moray Firth, between the Nairn and the Findhorn, has a peculiar interest from the fact that it has invaded and overwhelmed large spaces of once fertile land. The old barony of Culbin has in this way been entirely obliterated. ‘I