

and fertile. But such traditions are too vague to be, at least in the meantime, of any geological service. It is with the time of written history, therefore, that we must deal. Though this period is short, yet it furnishes us with some instructive lessons as to the progress of marine erosion. Let me conduct the reader in an imaginary voyage round the sea-margin of Scotland, and while the breeze drives us merrily onward he may be interested to listen to some tales of the wild havoc that has been wrought on

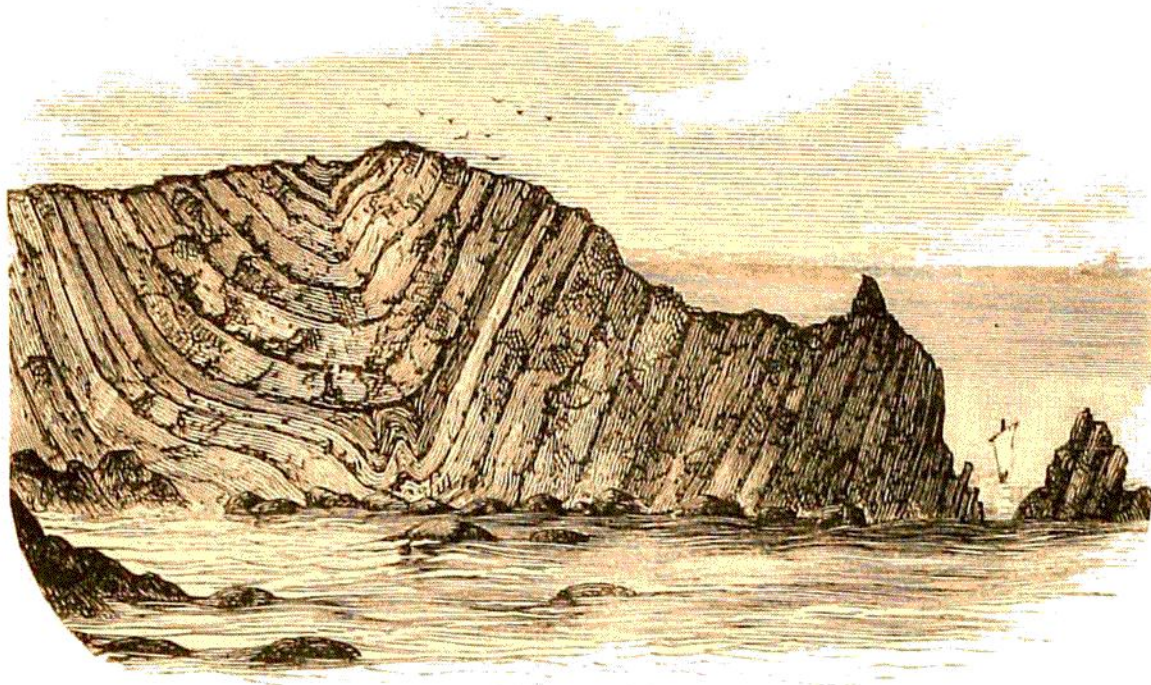


FIG. 10.—Part of the Sea-Cliffs of Berwickshire—Curved Silurian Rocks.

the shores, during the last few generations, by the same sea whose waves are now leaping and laughing around us.

From the mouth of the Tweed we set sail northwards, and skirt the abrupt rocky coast which forms the sea-board of Berwickshire. The cliffs for many miles are steep or vertical, rising, near St. Abb's Head, to a height of 500 feet above the waves,—the highest sea-cliffs on the eastern sea-