

ceed to the southern border of the Highlands we meet with another series of schists which there can hardly be any hesitation in regarding as altered sedimentary rocks. They are associated with bands of fine pebbly grit and conglomerate, quartzite, limestone, and black graphitic schist. These strata range across the counties east of the line of the Great Glen. They are arranged in numerous parallel arches and troughs, the long axis of which runs generally in a N.E.-S.W. direction. But many local variations in this direction occur. Over wide areas the schists, with their associated quartzites and limestones, are not highly inclined, and their outcrops can be traced like those of ordinary unaltered strata, though in some tracts they have been dislocated in the most remarkable way.

That these rocks, constituting the southern or south-eastern half of the Highlands, are metamorphosed Palæozoic sedimentary rocks, I have myself no doubt. I regard them as representatives partly of the Lower Silurian rocks of the Southern Uplands, and partly of probably still older formations. Their quartzites and limestones will, I hope, be yet identified, by means of the evidence of fossils, with the similar rocks of Sutherland and Ross.¹ How far they extend to the north and west, and where and how they join the younger schists of the north-west, remains to be ascertained by future research.

From this brief outline, it will be evident that the rocks of the Highlands have undergone enormous disturbance.

¹ The first steps towards the fulfilment of this hope have recently been made by my colleagues of the Geological Survey. Among the quartzites of Perthshire Mr. G. Barrow has found specimens of the so-called 'serpulite' which is so abundant in the 'serpulite grit' of Sutherland, and Mr. B. N. Peach and Mr. J. S. Grant Wilson have recognised the occurrence of annelide-tubes like those so abundant in the so-called 'piped' quartzite of the north-west.