

side also, resting everywhere upon a worn platform of schistose and eruptive rocks.

By thus piecing together the evidence furnished by the Old Red Sandstone along the borders and in the interior of the country, we obtain a strong probability that the great denudation which levelled the old Highland table-land was far advanced before the close of the Old Red Sandstone period. The vast piles of conglomerate and sandstone forming the Old Red Sandstone formations, and attaining a depth of 15,000 or 20,000 feet, represent a portion of the material worn away from the surface of the table-land. What the condition of the region was at the end of the Old Red Sandstone period, can only be dimly conjectured. There appears, indeed, to be good reason to believe that, during the continuance of that period, there was a prolonged subsidence of the basins of the large lakes. The sinking of the floors of these hollows might not improbably be accompanied by an upheaval of the surrounding land, which in some measure compensated for the prolonged and enormous denudation. But these movements, if we may judge from the unbroken sedimentation of the deposits, were on the whole slow and equable. There can be no doubt that by the close of the period of the Lower Old Red Sandstone a large part of the Highlands was buried under conglomerates and sandstones. No means now exist of ascertaining how much of their area, if indeed any portion of it, remained exposed. A great gap in the evidence here occurs. We know that the lakes of the Lower Old Red Sandstone were effaced, and that some parts of their sites were raised into land. But the general condition of the Highland region can only be guessed at. Whether it was land or whether it remained at a base-level of erosion below the sea is quite uncertain. There are