

board, by allowing the waters of the Atlantic to run far up among the recesses of the mountains, and thus to fill the glens. The east coast, as a whole, is lower and farther from the hills, and its rivers enter the sea, not between the steep sides of rocky glens, but among level or gently undulating lowlands covered with superficial deposits. A submergence of the seaward ends of these river-valleys would not make the coast-line resemble the coast-line of the other side of the kingdom, save only in such parts as the east of Sutherland, where the mountains and the narrow glens come within a short way of the sea margin. Long narrow sea-lochs, like those of Inverness and Argyll, are thus almost wholly absent from the eastern shores: where they do occur, it is just where the character of the neighbouring ground approaches most to that of the Atlantic sea-board. They are crowded together in the angle between the counties of Caithness and Elgin, where the mountains of Sutherland, Ross, and Inverness come closest down upon the North Sea. It must not be forgotten that precisely the same kind of diversity between the two sides of the country, but on a larger scale, is prolonged into the Scandinavian peninsula. The west side of Norway, with its thousands of deep fjords and inlets, is a magnified piece of west Highland scenery, and the undulating drift-covered plains of Sweden, with their comparatively unindented coast-line, along the Gulf of Bothnia, recall those of the east side of Scotland. If we are justified in regarding the sea-lochs of the west of Scotland as indicative of a greater submergence of that side of the country at a recent geological period, we may extend the generalisation into Scandinavia, and conclude that the whole Atlantic sea-board of the north-west of Europe has sunk down at a comparatively late epoch in geological history.