More conspicuous are the high plateaux of the west of Ireland, where horizontal beds of limestone lie piled one above another to a height of 2000 feet, and present ranges of magnificent escarpments towards the Atlantic. In Scotland, however, the rocks have for the most part been so dislocated and disturbed as to prevent the formation of continuous escarpments, and this interesting form of rock-scenery is consequently almost entirely absent, except locally and on a small scale. The Cambrian sandstone mountains of Western Sutherland and Ross-shire contain, perhaps, the most colossal escarpments in the country. The southern front of Leagach, for example, a mountain in Glen Torridon, exposes a vertical thickness of more than 3000 feet of almost horizontal beds of sandstone (Figs. 20, 43, 44). The Old Red Sandstone within the Highland area forms some conspicuous heights, such as the two Ben Griams, the line of rounded hills above Golspie, and Morven in Caithness (Figs. 27, 28). But in these northern hills, the stratification does not greatly influence the external features. Beyond the southern margin of the Highlands, however, in the Braes of Doune, some of the conglomerate mountains present lofty terraced slopes towards the Highlands, along the sides of which the parallel bedding of the rock forms conspicuous lines (Fig. 29).

But the most extensive Scottish escarpments are displayed by the igneous rocks. Where lava has been piled up in successive nearly horizontal sheets, with occasional layers of tuff or other softer rock between them, it offers conditions peculiarly favourable for the formation of escarpments. The wide basalt plateaux of the Inner Hebrides exhibit these conditions on a great scale. Unlike the eruptive rocks already referred to in this chapter, these youngest of the British igneous masses have been poured out at the