

cessation of the silt-bearing currents, the water became still enough to allow the mud suspended in it to settle on the bottom.*

I n t e r c a l a t e d C o n t o r t i o n.—Diagonal lamination is sometimes contorted as well as steeply inclined, and highly contorted beds are interposed between others which are undisturbed and horizontal. Curved and contorted lamination is of frequent occurrence among Palæozoic sandstones. In Fig. 196 an example is given from one of the oldest formations in Britain, and in Fig. 197 another

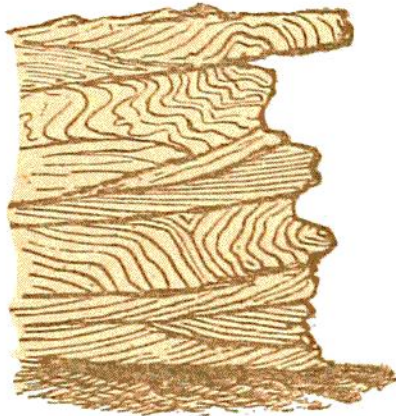


Fig. 197.—Contorted false-bedding, Torridon Sandstone, Gairloch.

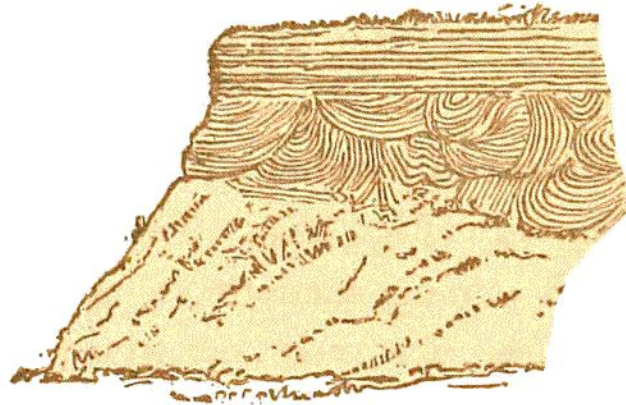


Fig. 198.—Contorted Post-Tertiary sands and clays, near Forres.

from one of the youngest. The cause of this structure is not well understood. Among glacial deposits local examples of contortion occur, which may be accounted for by the intercalation and subsequent melting of sheets of frozen mud, or by the stranding of heavy masses of drift-ice upon still unconsolidated sand and mud. The removal of mineral matter in solution (as among saliferous and gypseous deposits) leads to the subsidence and crumpling of overlying beds. The hydration of anhydrite (pp. 506, 587), by aug-

* "Geological Observer," p. 536. The memoir by E. Fayol cited on p. 837 is accompanied with an atlas which contains many excellent illustrations of the exceedingly irregular stratification of the Coal-measures.