

It is of course impossible to form any adequate conception of the length of time denoted by this unconformability. But the more the geologist tries to realize what the denudation of the old gneiss involves, the more impressed will he be with the vastness of the period which it denotes.

Over nearly the whole of the Lewisian gneiss, so far as it has been studied on the mainland, no trace has been found of any rocks save what probably had an eruptive origin. In one district, however, which includes the pic-

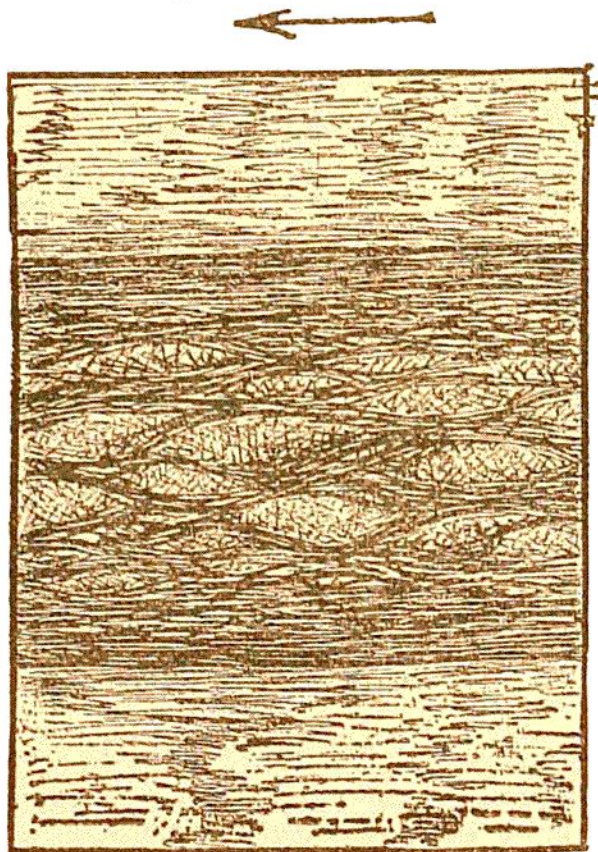


Fig. 832.—Diagram of dolerite dike cutting Lewisian gneiss, representing an area of about 600 square yards.

The dark portion represents the dike with its "eyes" or lenticles surrounded by and passing marginally into hornblende-schist. The gray band on either side of the dike is the surrounding gneiss which has been affected by a secondary foliation parallel to that of the dike. The arrow shows the direction of movement.

turesque valley of Loch Maree, a remarkable group of rocks occurs which, though their exact relations are not without some doubt, appear to indicate a sedimentary series through which the Lewisian gneiss has been erupted. These rocks consist chiefly of fine mica-schist, quartz-schist, graphite-schist and limestone. The graphitic material occurs in bands an inch or more thick in the mica-schist. The limestones are persistent beds, having generally a saccharoid texture, and sometimes full of the usual minerals