rocks are specially developed, while granular hornblende rocks and biotite gneisses are characteristic of the northern and southern tracts. Sometimes these rocks appear like ordinary eruptive masses, sometimes with crude mineral banding, and yet again with well-defined foliation.

The schists of sedimentary origin have a limited development north of Loch Maree and near Gairloch. The prominent members of the series are quartz-schists, mica-schists, graphitic-schists, limestones, and dolomites, with tremolite, garnet, and epidote. They are there associated with a massive sill of epidiorite and hornblende-schist.

After the development of the early mineral banding of the gneisses, the Fundamental Complex was pierced by a remarkable series of igneous intrusions in the form of dykes and sills; comprising ultrabasic rocks (peridotite), basic rocks (dolerite and epidiorite), and acid rocks (granite and pegmatite). The evidence in the field points to the conclusion that the ultrabasic rocks cut the basic, and that the granite dykes and sills were intruded into the gneisses after the eruption of the basic dykes.

After the intrusion of these various igneous materials, the whole region was subjected to terrestrial stresses which affected the gneisses of the Fundamental Complex and the dykes which traverse them. These lines of movement traverse the Lewisian plateau in various directions, producing planes of disruption, molecular rearrangement of the minerals, and the development of foliation in the gneiss and dykes. In these zones of shearing the coarse pyroxenic gneisses are replaced by granulitic biotite and hornblende gneisses, and the basic dykes merge into bands of hornblende-schist.

After the cessation of these terrestrial movements, and before the deposition of the sediments that now form the overlying Torridon Sandstone, the Lewisian Gneiss underwent prolonged denudation. In the north-west of Sutherland, between Durness and Loch Laxford, the surface of these ancient rocks was worn down to a comparatively level plane; but farther south, in Assynt and onwards to Loch Torridon in Ross-shire, it was carved into a series of deep narrow valleys with mountains rising to a height of about 2000 feet.

TORRIDONIAN

Throughout the North-West Highlands the Torridon Sandstone rests on the various members of the Lewisian Gneiss with a violent unconformability, which must represent a vast lapse of time. This formation is divisible into three groups: a lower, composed of epidotic grits and conglomerates, dark and grey shales with calcareous bands, red sandstones and grits; a middle, consisting of a great succession of false-bedded grits and sandstones; an upper, comprising