

of the army of the Cross, while his warriors defiled before him on their way to Antioch, and to the conquest of the Holy Land and the Sepulchre of Christ.

Ravines are formed by torrents hollowing out for themselves a channel in the mountain-side. These depressions are of great interest for the geologist, because they reveal sections of strata, and exhibit the character of the rocks composing the mountain-mass. The Pyrenees, the Alps, and especially the Andes, are furrowed in every direction by profound ravines. The loftier the mountains, the more considerable are these erosions. The Spaniards call the Andean ravines *quebradas* (or "fractures").

[The basins of great rivers are also spoken of as valleys: as the valley of the Ganges, the valley of the Rhine, the valley of the Thames. At some points, these valleys expand into plains; at others, they narrow into defiles. A remarkable example is offered by the Nile, which flows for leagues through wide, open, and level plains, to contract at Assouan between walls of savage cliff. In mountainous countries the river valleys exhibit every variety of wild and romantic scenery; in level countries they are more remarkable for fertility than grandeur or picturesqueness. Of the former, we may name as striking instances the valley of the Aar, in Switzerland; the valley of the Tay, in Scotland; the valley of the Danube, in Austria; the valley of the Indus, in Asia; of the St. Lawrence, in North America. Of the latter, the following examples will readily suggest themselves: the valley of the Thames, in England; that of the Loire, in France; that of the Meuse, in Holland; of the Po, in Italy; of the Mississippi and Ohio, in North America; of the Hoang-Ho, in China; and the Ganges, in India. In the latter the descent of the river to the plain is so gradual, that, notwithstanding its great length, it is only 1100 feet at Calcutta below the level of Saharampore, near the foot of the Himalaya. Hence, in the rainy season, Bengal lies under water for hundreds of miles in every direction, and its surface may not inaptly be compared to a slowly-moving sea.

All valleys might conveniently be classified under two great divisions: *Mountain-Valleys*, and *Valley-Plains*. To one or other of these generic classes every variety will be found to belong.]