

From these remarks the reader will understand that, in our own days and under our own eyes, the combined action of the water and the atmosphere, working upon the rocks which compose our mountain-masses, produces their avalanches and landslips; as disastrous some times, in their consequences, as the earthquake or the volcanic eruption.

Under other circumstances, dislodgments of the soil are effected by the waters of our rivers, which incessantly but silently eat into the banks and undermine them, and often produce the fall of great masses of rock. The English tourist may see remarkable examples of this fluviate action in the valley of the Dove, in Derbyshire—in that of the Teign, in Devonshire—in that of the Esk, near Rosslyn and Hawthornden, in Edinburghshire. Localities not less interesting or curious will probably be known to every reader.

At other times, and in other places, the pluvial floods, infiltrating the ground and giving rise to subterraneous currents, carry away the foundations of the superficial strata of our hills and mountains. Two noteworthy instances of this cause and effect occur to us: the landslips of the chalky cliff of Cape de la Hève, near Havre; and the Undercliff, in the Isle of Wight.

[To every Englishman the latter district will be familiar, on account of its picturesque scenery and genial climate. In the whole circuit of the United Kingdom there is scarcely any place of equal area so distinguished by the wildness and varied beauty of its landscapes. It may roughly be described as a succession of terraces, descending to the sea from an elevation of 800 feet, overshadowed by a lofty wall of chalk, strewn with masses of detached rock, and loaded with a luxuriant vegetation. It is a scene of chaotic grandeur and sylvan loveliness: the cause, the subterranean action of landsprings on a layer of blue marl, which, gradually dissolving and gliding forward, brought down in wild confusion the strata superimposed upon it.]

Finally, at other times and in other places, by a fissure existing between the different superimposed rocks, a portion of a mountain is