

of granite, the high land has been cut up into innumerable valleys by the repeated action of rain, rivers, and glaciers, whence their mountainous character; for the special outlines of mountains, as we now see them, are rugged, less by disturbances of strata, than by the scooping away of material from greatly elevated tracts of country. By *mere elevation and disturbance* of strata, the land might rise high enough; but as mountain regions now exist, it is by a combination of disturbance of strata with extreme denudation, going on both while and after slow disturbance and elevation was taking place, that peaks, rough ridges, ice-worn surfaces, and all the cliffs and valleys of the Highlands in their present form, have been called into existence. They are undergoing further modification now.

Let anyone go to the western part of Sutherland and climb Suilven, and he will get a clear idea of what is meant by a considerable amount of denudation. The mountain is based on a wide, low, undulating plateau of Laurentian gneiss, dotted with unnumbered lakes and tarns. From this plateau it rises abruptly into the air, like a little Matterhorn, 2,396 feet in height, and its sides are as steep as those of the noble Swiss mountain. They are formed of horizontal Cambrian purple conglomerate and grits, cut by nature into great terraced steps, on which by devious courses the climber reaches the summit. From thence let him turn to the east, and there, five miles distant, set on the same plain, he will descry the steep-sided Canisp, formed of the same Cambrian strata once united to those of Suilven, and Coulmore. Here is 'a monstrous cantle' cut out of these strata, and yet if the reader, for the whole, would multiply that by a hundred, he would probably not