

that the result would be an inclined plane like that of the straight line *b b* in the diagram. Let South Wales be such a country: then when that country was again raised out of the water, the streams made by its drainage immediately began to scoop out valleys; and though some inequalities of contour forming mere bays may have been begun by marine denudation during emergence, yet in the main I believe that the inequalities below the line *b b* *have been made by the influence of rain and running water*. Hence the number of deep valleys, many of them steep-sided, that diversify Wales, all the way from the Towey in Caermarthenshire to the slaty hills near the southern flanks of Cader Idris and the Arans.

On ascending to the upper heights, indeed, anywhere between the Vale of Towey and Cardigan Bay, it is impossible not to be struck with the average uniformity of elevation of the flat-topped hills that form a principal feature of the country. The country already described as seen from Ramsey Island is part of this plain,¹ and much further north let anyone ascend Aran Mowddy or Cader Idris in Merionethshire, and look south and south-east. From thence he will behold, as far as the eye can reach, a wide extent of flat-topped hills, which form the relics of a vast tableland, now intersected by numerous rivers, which, in the long lapse of untold ages, have scooped out unnumbered labyrinthine valleys eastward into Montgomeryshire, and far south into Cardiganshire. Between the rivers Towey and Teifi, and in other areas, these hills, in fact, form the relics of a great plain or tableland *in which the valleys have been scooped out*; and in the case of the country represented in fig. 97, 'the higher land, as it now exists, is

¹ See p. 487.