

built up of gneisses, schists, slates, quartzites, granites, and other rocks, quite comparable with those of Norway.¹

Besides the external resemblance due to the lithological nature of the rocks beneath, there is a still further likeness dependent upon similarity, partly of geological structure, and partly of denudation. Most of the Scottish sea-lochs have had their trend determined by lines of strike or of anticlinal axis, and the same result seems to have taken place in Norway. But the lochs and glens of the one country, and the fjords and valleys of the other, whether or not their site and direction have been determined by geological structure, unquestionably owe their excavation to the great process of denudation which has brought the surface of the land to its present form.² In short, Norway and the Scottish Highlands seem to be but parts of one long tableland of erosion composed of palæozoic (chiefly metamorphic) rocks. This tableland must be of venerable antiquity; for it seems to have been in existence, at least in part, as far back as the Lower Old Red Sandstone. Since that time it has been sorely defaced by long cycles of geological revolution; rains, rivers, ice, and general atmospheric waste have carved out of it the present valleys, and to all this surface-change must be added the results of dislocations, as well as unequal upheavals and depressions of the crust of the earth beneath. Nevertheless it still survives in extensive fragments in Norway, where it serves

¹ Since this paper was published, my friends Dr. T. Kjerulf and Dr. Tellef Dahll have given to the world numerous instructive memoirs on Norwegian geology. A German translation of Dr. Kjerulf's *Geology of Southern Norway* has been published by Dr. Gurlt, Bonn, 1879.

² I have tried to trace the history of this process in the case of the Scottish Highlands. *The Scenery of Scotland viewed in connection with its Physical Geology*, chap. vi.