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some association with the events of history, with the creations of fiction, or with the dreams of poetry. There is thus a double charm about them, and it is often hard to say which is their more powerful element.

The materials out of which the landscapes of Scotland have been framed, and the influence of subterranean movements upon them, will be described in later chapters in connection with the three regions into which the country may naturally be divided, each district having its own peculiarities of geological structure. But the forces that have acted at the surface, carving these materials into their present forms, have been at work over the whole country, and may therefore be taken together. Accordingly, I propose first to consider the operation of the various agents that have acted upon the surface of the rocks, and as far as possible to take the illustrations of their mode of working from what may now be seen going on in Scotland.