

other across the glen, the Sow of Athol and the Boar of Badenoch—

‘Oft both slope and hill are torn,
Where wintry torrents down have borne,
And heaped upon the cumbered land
Its wreck of gravel, rocks, and sand.’

I will further suppose that after winding about in its flat valley, and being joined by similar rills from either side, our stream, growing in volume as it advances, at last enters a thick wood, from which issues the roar of a waterfall. Skirting the wood and rejoining the stream a little farther down, where the valley somewhat contracts, we find ourselves on the brink of a deep ravine, at the bottom of which the water dashes merrily onward between precipitous walls of fern-tufted rock. The idea that naturally suggests itself in such a scene is to look upon this rent as due to some convulsion by which the solid earth has been broken open. But if that idea were true there ought to be some evidence of it in the dell itself. Yet were we to descend to the bottom and search for such evidence, we should almost certainly find the ledges of rock to be traceable unbroken across the bed of the brook. Had the ravine been a chasm produced by underground disturbance, not only would the rocks along its bottom have been fractured, but the gaping walls would have been separated, not by unbroken rock but by dislocated masses from either side. Nevertheless, to one who has never thought of the subject, nor given heed to the operations of running water across the surface of the land, the assertion that no earthquake or convulsion has had any share in the formation of such a ravine seems mere paradox, and he will incredulously ask whither he must turn to find another natural agency equally grand in its working and mighty in its results. Such a question reveals the true cause of the pre-