

the end of the gorge and enter upon an opener, flatter portion of the valley, through which the water meanders with gentler current. The surface of this meadow-like plain, or 'haugh' as it is called in Scotland, is raised only a few feet above the level of the stream, and is evidently liable to inundation, for its surface is marked with lines of leaves, twigs, and other wreckage, which show where the margin of flood-water has stood. Every such inundation will tend slightly to raise the level of the plain by depositing material upon it. On the other hand, the effect of floods is to scour out the bed of the stream, and consequently to lower the level of the water. By these two operations, the vertical distance between the level of the flood-plain and that of the water is continually being increased. Hence, the inundations will tend to become fewer and less extensive. *The limits of even the highest floods will begin to shrink, and the time will doubtless come when they will no longer extend over any part of the flood-plain.* But as the stream deepens its channel it attacks its former flood-plain at the side, and cuts away slice after slice of the loose alluvial material, which it strews along its channel and its banks. It thus builds up another flood-plain at a lower level.

That these operations have been in progress for a long time is shown by the fact that other similar, but usually narrower, strips of level meadow rise on either side high above the stream. Sometimes there are three or more such terraces, each of which marks a former flood-plain, and shows the level at which the stream once flowed. All the large rivers of Scotland are fringed with these memorials of their history.

Though it is the mechanical work of running water that chiefly merits attention for its effects in land-sculpture, we