

port, and causes it to let more or less of its sediment sink to the bottom. There are two principal ways in which this check of flow and deposit of sediment are caused: first, by a sudden lessening of the angle of slope, as has been already illustrated; and secondly, by the junction of one body of water with another which has a less rate of motion or is practically at rest. In the latter case, we see the result in the deltas that are pushed out into a lake from the mouths of its tributary streams, and in those that are gradually filling up the higher parts of estuaries. Many admirable instances of such lacustrine and marine deltas are to be seen in Scotland. There is hardly a lake in the country where illustrations may not be gathered. Examples of almost every stage may be witnessed until the various deltas meet and the lake is finally silted up. One of the most noticeable operations of running water in the country is this gradual effacement of the lakes, which, though still numerous enough, were once so profusely scattered across the surface. Of the shallowing of sea-inlets by the discharge of rivers, numerous Scottish illustrations may likewise be cited. They are most observable on the east side of the country. The upper reaches of the Firths of Forth and Tay display thick deposits of alluvial mud and sand, which at low water are seen to cover wide tracts of ground. The northern indentations likewise supply excellent examples, particularly the Beaully, Cromarty, and Dornoch Firths, and the Kyles of Tongue and Durness. In so far as these are marine accumulations they properly come for consideration in the next chapter. But they are almost entirely due to the deposit of the detritus swept down from the Highland mountains by the streams, whose united waters are carried out to sea in these estuaries.

In considering the operations of any one of the superficial