

shouldered mountain rises from the valley of Loch Tay on the one side, and sinks into Glen Lyon on the other. It forms thus a huge dome-shaped mass between two deep valleys. But instead of owing this form to an upward curving of the schists, it actually lies in a basin of these rocks which dip underneath the mountain on the banks of Loch Tay, and rise up again from its further skirts in Glen Lyon. Thus Ben Lawers is in reality formed of a trough of schists, while the valley of Loch Tay runs along the top of an anticlinal arch. Hence that which, in geological structure, is a depression has by denudation become a great mountain, while what is an elevation has been turned into a deep valley.

Examples of this structure, teaching the same lesson of vast degradation, may be met with all over the Highlands. Not less striking is the evidence that some of the most powerful dislocations in the region have been planed away till they do not now seriously influence the topography. Nowhere can this be better seen than in the north-west of Sutherland. As I have already stated, that district contains some of the most astonishing proofs of subterranean displacements. In the Section No. I. on the Geological Map accompanying this volume, the Archæan gneiss is shown to have been driven westwards across the Silurian strata, the thrust-planes between them undulating at low angles. By a subsequent series of faults, these gently inclined dislocations have been cut through by ordinary or normal faults, some portions of the fractured ground being thrown down for several hundred feet. It will be seen, however, that so vast has been the denudation, that the greater part of the overlying rocks has been removed, that neither the faults nor the thrust-planes produce lines of cliff or ravine at the surface, but, on the contrary, are without any effect on the