

gration at once began upon the congealed pitchstone, and has been continued from that time till now. The result of the prolonged waste may be briefly summed up. The land that united the basalt plateaux to mountains of Cambrian sandstone has been destroyed, and Eigg has become an island. The basalts forming the higher grounds that bounded the old river-valley, have been worn down and reduced to slopes that shelve into the sea. So complete has been the change that the buried valley, under protection of the singularly indestructible pitchstone, now runs along the top of a ridge. What were once hills have disappeared, and what used to be a valley is now the crest of a lofty hill. The pitchstone which, when it rolled down that ancient water-course, sought the lowest level it could find, rises to-day into one of the most conspicuous landmarks in the west of Scotland. Yet even of this firm rock only a fragment now remains, which is mouldering into ruins, and the debris of which is strewn thickly along the base of the cliffs. Every century must certainly, though perhaps to human eye imperceptibly, lessen the size of the Scur, and we can look to a distant time when the last remains of it shall have disappeared. The lowering of the basalt-ground, no longer protected by the more durable pitchstone, will then proceed apace.

From all the evidence which has now been adduced it will, I think, be manifest to the reader that a comparison of the external configuration of the Highlands with their geological structure, inevitably leads us to the conclusion that of the original surface of this part of the globe, as it was left after the crumpling and dislocation of the schists, not a vestige can possibly now remain; that thousands of feet of solid rock have since then been worn away from it, and that the present inequalities of the ground, instead of