

heaviest and most constant precipitation. Their sides are seamed with torrents which tear down the solid rock, and sweep its detritus into the glens and sea-lochs. The eastern heights, on the other hand, experience a less rainfall and consequently a diminished rate of erosion. There is no reason to doubt that the present preponderance of precipitation in the west has persisted for an enormous duration of time. The greater rainfall of to-day was probably represented in former ages by a greater snowfall, so that the glaciers would be larger in the western than in the eastern districts of the Highlands.

During its vast and protracted denudation, the framework of the country has been cut down to the very core. The erosion has necessarily been greatest along the drainage-lines, and hence the excavation of valleys. But we have now to consider the general results on the rest of the country. In doing so we must remember that the nature and grouping of the materials have varied from district to district, while the erosion has been universal. We may therefore expect to find, amid the evidence of general denudation, great local diversities in the character of the results achieved. The more resisting rocks have naturally been left standing up as prominences, while those more easily degraded have been worn into hollows.

In the gradual evolution of the hills, full scope has been afforded for the modifications of form produced by variations in geological structure. The most important example of this influence is presented by the three great belts of country of which Scotland is composed, the north-easterly direction and individual characters of these belts being determined by the trend of the plications and dislocations, and by the distinctive variations in the nature and grouping of the rocks. The long north-east and south-