

the Moor of Rannoch, it covers leagues of ground without ever rising into a hill; or, as seen from the top of Cairngorm, it swells into wide, tame, undulating uplands; or it mounts in huge craggy precipices far up into the mists, and encloses dark tarns like Loch Eunach and Loch Aven; or it sweeps into smooth domes like the Red Hills of Skye, or into groups of cones like Ben Loyal in Sutherland, or into a single stately cone like that of Goatfell. I have already remarked that some of these various and apparently incongruous forms may be found combined in the same district, nay, even in the same mountain. From the summits of some of the granite mountains in the Grampian chain, the eye wanders over a wide, smooth, undulating table-land of hill-tops, and yet one or more of the flanks of each of these mountains may be a dizzy precipice 2000 feet in descent, with its rifts of winter snow hidden deep from the sun. Such is the character of the highest parts of the Grampians,

‘Around the grizzly cliffs which guard  
The infant rills of Highland Dee.’

Certainly the widest region of the wildest scenery in Britain is comprised in the 100 square miles of savage mountain and corry lying between Glen Feshie and Glen Quoich. It includes the summits of Ben Macdhui, Cairn Gorm, and other giants; the precipices of Loch Eunach and the Devil's Point, and the cauldron-like corries of Braeriach and Ben-na-Bhuird (see Fig. 24).

Granite is usually traversed with innumerable joints, both parallel and oblique to each other, which enable rain and frost to split it up. The ultimate topographical forms into which it weathers depend greatly upon the angle of its surface. On a horizontal or gently-inclined sheet of