

ravines, and to each knoll and crag a renewal of its former angularity. Yet his eye rests continually upon little bosses of rock, or even upon whole hillsides where, owing to a covering of drift or soil, or to the enduring nature of the material, the change has gone on but slowly, and where he can still view the uneffaced traces of that wonderful process by which the surface of the country from Cape Wrath to the Solway has been worn and smoothed.

This widespread abrasion can be seen on hill and crag, hummock and knoll, from the shoulders of the mountains down to the level of the sea and below it. It is traceable upon all the little dimples and prominences on a freshly exposed surface of rock. The hardest materials usually show it best, and when the soil and superficial detritus are stripped from them, their faces may often be seen to be as smoothly dressed as if they had been cut in a mason's yard, and were meant to form part of the polished ashlar-work of a great building.

Further, not only have the rock-surfaces been thus planed down, they have been covered with long more or less parallel ruts and striæ, varying in depth and width from mere streaks, such as might be scratched with a grain of sand, up to grooves like those worn in old pavements by the cart-wheels of successive generations. The fine scratches may be seen descending into the hollows and mounting over the prominences of a rock, keeping all the while their general direction, with about as much regularity and persistence as they do over the most even surface. These markings have obviously been produced by some agent that moved across the face of the country, grinding down, scratching, and grooving the rocks as it passed along. No violent or transient debacle will account for them. They can only have been made in a quiet, deliberate way,