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it is the little changes which by their cumulative effects bring about the greatest results ; that the lowly offices of wind and rain, springs and frosts, snow and ice, trifling as they may appear, have nevertheless been chosen as instruments to mould the giant framework of the mountains ; and that these seemingly feeble agents have yet been able, in the long lapse of ages, to produce the widest diversity of scenery ; and to do this, not with the havoc and ruin of earthquake and convulsion, but with a nicely balanced harmony and order, forming out of the very waste of the land a kindly soil, which bears, year by year, its mantle of green, yielding food to the beast of the field and the fowl of the air, and ministering to the wants and the enjoyment of man.