

From **Inversnaid** a steep road leads up Glen Arklet, parallel to a narrow gorge, which the stream has cut in the gnarled schists. A succession of old pot-holes [29] at different heights above the present bed of the stream mark the progressive erosion of the gorge. About a mile before reaching Loch Arklet a series of ridges, running up the south side of the glen, denotes the outcrop of some of the harder bands in the schist. The valley has been intensely ice-worn. As we ascend, moraine stuff becomes more abundant, until along the watershed between Loch Arklet and Loch Katrine, a fine series of moraine mounds is to be seen, with large erratic blocks strewn about upon them. Ice-worn surfaces of schist are prominent at Stronachlachar, where a steamer waits to convey passengers down Loch Katrine. This noble sheet of water runs in a curved course across the strike of the schists. On the south a group of massive grits and gritty schists rises into the huge mass of Ben Venue, crosses the glen of the Trossachs, and is prolonged north-eastward into Ben Ledi and the hills to the east of Loch Lubnaig [211]. On the north side of Loch Katrine mica-schists, with gentle southerly inclinations, sweep up into the hills that lie between this depression and the valley of Balquhiddy. The comparatively recent formation of these lake-basins is proved by the dykes which cross them [149].

The gorge of the Trossachs affords a good opportunity of examining the topographical influence of the harder and more quartzose portions of the Highland schists. The tough, durable character of the material, and its tendency to break up along well-defined lines of joint, enable it to weather into bosses, crags, and knolls, with frequent precipitous faces and a general ruggedness of contour which is traceable alike in the bottom of the glens, along the hill-slopes, and upon the crests. The Trossachs lie in a band of these harder rocks, and owe to this circumstance their characteristic broken outlines. Another feature of interest will arrest the attention of the traveller. Loch Katrine has evidently been filled with ice, which rose high along the sides of the surrounding hills and moved downwards out of the lake through the gorge of the Trossachs and eastwards into the Midland Valley. The lake is a true rock-basin [231]. All the islets and rocky ledges that rise along the rim from which its waters escape have been intensely