

the sectional profile of country composed of stratified rocks and traversed by several vallies. One of these vallies separates the hills No. 1 & 2, a second separates 2 & 3; at the further base of the hill No. 3, a plain succeeds, in the middle of which rises the insulated hill No. 4, crowned by the same strata which appear in the neighbouring chain. Such insulated hills are termed *outliers*, and constitute a phenomenon of much importance as connected with the present question.

If then we examine the structure of the vallies as here represented, we find precisely the same series of strata repeated on both their sides, in exactly the same order, and under circumstances which indicate them to have been once continuous, and to have been subsequently removed from the intervals occupied by the vallies, by some cause which has here excavated or scooped away the materials which once filled those intervals. The phenomena are exactly similar, on the large scale, to those which would be exhibited in the small by a block of laminated marble in which the tool of the sculptor had chisselled out deep furrows; and as we should not doubt in the latter instance that the laminæ now interrupted by these furrows had been once continuous, and the interruptions effected by subsequent violence, so we have the same or stronger evidence in the case before us; for the strata broken through by the vallies are, in a majority of instances, evidently the result of aqueous deposition; now we cannot possibly suppose that such a cause could have deposited exactly the same beds, in the same order, and the same planes, throughout the mass of the hills, and yet have abruptly ceased to deposit them in the narrow intervals now possessed by the vallies; undoubtedly then those intervals were once filled by the same deposits whose truncated edges now appear on their sides; and the intervals themselves (i. e. the vallies) have been formed by the subsequent excavation or erosion of the strata in these points.

In the treatise on the Deluge by Mr. Catcot (a physico-theological writer of the last century belonging to the Hutchinsonian school) are the following forcible remarks on this subject.

“If a person were to see the broken walls of a palace or castle that had been in part demolished, he would trace the lines in which the walls had been carried, and in thought, fill up the breaches, and reunite the whole. In the same manner, when we view the naked ends or broken edges of strata on one side of a valley, and compare them with their correspondent ends on the other, we cannot but perceive that the intermediate space was once filled up, and the strata continued from mountain to mountain.”