

CHAPTER II.

MOUNTAINS OF YORKSHIRE.

[In the following descriptions the heights of the mountains are expressed in feet above the sea, as Mickle Fell, 2580 feet. Where O.S. is appended, the authority is the Ordnance Survey, and in like manner N. refers to the careful results of the late Mr. Nixon's Survey. For many other elevations the author and his friend Mr. Gray are responsible. A general table of these measures will be given in the Appendix.]

MICKLE FELL GROUP.—Mickle Fell (Teut. *Great Mountain*), in the extreme north-western angle of Yorkshire, is the highest of some thirty summits which rise more than 2000 feet above the sea, and are scattered along the Penine Chain between Teesdale and the region of Ribblesdale or Low Craven. These well-known points may be designated mountains or hills to suit the general reader, but they are better known locally by the ancient name of 'fell,' which, like the Yorkshire name of waterfall, 'force,' is equally characteristic of Norway*.

Mickle Fell, situate between Teesdale and Lunedale, rises above the point where these valleys meet about 2000 feet, above the sea 2580 feet. Across the western, which is the highest part of its curved summit, runs the boundary, by agreement, between the Yorkshire and Westmoreland Manors, so that each of these counties may claim a share in this noble hill. The Man† erected here stands on millstone grit; the eastern part of the mountain, which is 2472 feet high, is chiefly formed of the uppermost thick limestone of the Yoredale series, and between this point and the High Force the whole of that series may be traced.

* Like the Norwegians, the men of Yorkshire place a circumflex accent on the word Fëll (Fjall, Norw.), and in both countries the word for waterfall (*fors* in Norway) is pronounced 'foss.'

† Maen in Cymraic signifies 'rock.' It is not so generally employed to designate the conspicuous stone heaps in Yorkshire as in the Cumbrian country.