

CHAPTER XI

Geological Physiognomy. — Scenery of the **Primary Formations; Gneiss, mica Schist, Quartz Rock.** — Of the **Secondary; the Chalk Formations, the Oolite, the New Red Sandstone, the Coal Measures.** — Scenery in the **Neighborhood of Edinburgh.** — Aspect of the **Trap Rocks.** — The **Disturbing and Denuding Agencies.** — **Distinctive Features of the Old Red Sandstone.** — Of the **Great Conglomerate.** — Of the **Ichthyolite Beds.** — The **Burn of Eathie.** — The **Upper Old Red Sandstones.** — Scene in **Moray.**

PHYSIOGNOMY is no idle or doubtful science in connection with Geology. The physiognomy of a country indicates, almost invariably, its geological character. There is scarce a rock among the more ancient groups that does not affect its peculiar form of hill and valley. Each has its style of landscape; and as the vegetation of a district depends often on the nature of the underlying deposits, not only are the main outlines regulated by the mineralogy of the formations which they define, but also in many cases the manner in which these outlines are filled up. The coloring of the landscape is well nigh as intimately connected with its Geology as the drawing. The traveller passes through a mountainous region of gneiss. The hills, which, though bulky, are shapeless, raise their huge backs so high over the brown, dreary moors, which, unvaried by precipice or ravine, stretch away for miles from their feet, that even amid the heats of midsummer the snow gleams in streaks and patches from their summits. And yet so vast is their extent of base, and their tops so truncated, that they seem but half-finished hills notwithstanding — hills interdicted somehow in the forming, and the work stopped ere the upper