

scale by which to estimate its magnitude." The low hills which had at first rather disappointed him were now, he found, a full thousand feet in height.

There are several respects in which Norway may be regarded as a country still in its *green* youth. These primeval forests are of themselves demonstrative of the fact. Humboldt well remarks, that "an early civilization of the human race sets bounds to the increase of forests;" for "nations," he says, "in their change-loving spirit, gradually destroy the decorations which rejoice our eye in the north, and which, more than the records of history, attest the youthfulness of our civilization." There are other evidences that at least the northern portions of both Norway and Sweden were unappropriated by man during the earlier ages of British and Continental history. It is a curious fact, adverted to by Mr Robert Chambers in his "Tracings of the North of Europe," that in the great Museum of Antiquities at Copenhagen, the relics of the stone period have been furnished by only Denmark and the southern provinces of Sweden and Norway. They are not to be found in the far provinces of the north; and the only district beyond the Baltic in which they occur in the ordinary proportions of the south and middle portions of Europe, is the low-lying, comparatively temperate, province of Scania. It is doubtless an advantage in some respects, for at least a wild and mountainous country to be still in its youth. Large tracts of the more ancient Scottish Highlands lie sunk in the hopeless sterility of old age. In many of their so-called forests, that are forests without a living tree,—such as the Moin in Sutherlandshire, or that tract of desert waste which spreads out around Kings-house in Argyleshire,—the traveller sees, in the sections opened by the winter torrents, two periods of death represented, with a comparatively brief period of life intervening between. There is first, reckoning from the rock upwards, a stratum of gray