

land. In the southern part of the kingdom there is yet another line of elevation exhibited, whose direction from nearly north-east to south-west we find indicated by the nearly parallel lines in which the greater formations of the Lowland counties, from the clay-slates that flank the Grampians, to the Grauwackes of the border districts, sweep across the country. I fear that the homely illustrations which I have to employ in rendering my subject comprehensible,—such as wedges struck upwards from below,—a field first ploughed across and then diagonally,—may have the effect of so reducing my subject in your minds into a mere model, that, through the necessary reduction, more may be lost in expansiveness of feeling than gained by any substitution of clearness of view. There can be little doubt that in the conceptions of mind, as in the collocations of matter, the *portable* means the small ; and that Goethe exercised his wonted shrewdness in remarking, that when the ancients spoke of the unmeasurable earth and the illimitable sea, it was with a profounder feeling than any now exercised by the geographer in a time when every school-girl can tell that the world is round. You will, however, remember, that though my illustrations are small, my subject is large ; and such of my audience as have sailed over the profound depths of Loch Ness,—depths greatly more profound than those of the German Ocean beyond,—and seen those lines of russet mountains, so often capped with cloud, and so often, even at midsummer, streaked with snow,—that rise on either hand, and that enclose from sea to sea that mighty trench which the old unsophisticated Highlander learned to distinguish as the great Glen of Albyn,—when they call up to memory the noble features of the scene,—the long retiring vista on either hand, purple in the far distance ; and remember that that vast rectilinear hollow forms but one of the plough furrows of my illustration,—they will see that that with which I am in reality dealing is the sublime of nature,