

landscape depend. I would feel as if I were bringing you from the studio of some heaven-taught sculptor, crowded with shapes of manly beauty and feminine loveliness, to lecture, amid the melancholy rubbish of a dissecting-room, on the articulations and proportions of the bones, and the form and position of the muscles. I shall venture, therefore, on merely a few desultory remarks, and shall request you, in order to lighten them as much as possible, to accompany me, first, in a sort of mesmeric expedition to the western extremity of Glencoe; at which, after having journeyed as only the clairvoyant can journey, let us now deem ourselves all safely arrived, and just set out on our way back again by the Loch Lomond road. In the course of our journey we shall pass, in the ascending order, over all the great Primary formations.<sup>1</sup>

Let us first mark the character of the Glen,—not less famous for the severe and terrible sublimity of its natural features, than for that dark incident in its history which associates in such melancholy harmony with the terrible and the severe. We are in a region of primary porphyry,—in the main a dark-coloured rock, though it is one of its peculiar traits, that in the course of a few yards it sometimes changes its hue from dark green to black or a deep neutral tint, and from these again to chocolate colour, to brick red, or to iron grey. But the prevailing hues are dingy and sombre; and hence, independently of the brown heath and ling, and those deep shadows which always

<sup>1</sup> According to a diagram which I have had the honour of receiving from the hand of Sir Roderick Murchison, illustrating his latest explorations in the north, there are two distinct gneisses,—an older and a younger; the first underlying the Cambrian conglomerate and Silurian fossil-bearing band of the west; the other or younger gneiss forming part of the central nucleus, and underlying the Old Red Sandstone conglomerates and ascending fossiliferous series of the east. Of course, the Cambrian will contain fragments of the older, and the Old Red conglomerate fragments of the younger gneiss.—L. M.