but one of its aspects. 'All formations,' we find him saying, 'are common to every quarter of the globe, and assume the like forms. Everywhere basalt rises in twin mountains and truncated cones; everywhere trap porphyry presents itself to the eye under the form of grotesquely-shaped masses of rock; while granite terminates in gently rounded summits.'

We pursue our journey, and enter on a great gneiss district. And in its swelling hills, rolled, like pieces of plain drapery, into but a few folds, and in its long withdrawing valleys, more imposing from an element of simple extent than from aught peculiarly striking in their contour, we recognise the staple scenery of the Scotch Highlands,—the scenery of ten thousand square miles. A gneiss hill is usually massive, rounded, broad of base, and withal somewhat squat, as if it were a mountain well begun, but interdicted somehow in the building, rather than a finished mountain. It seems almost always to lack the upper storeys and the pinnacles. It is, if I may so express myself, a hill of one heave; whereas all our more imposing Scottish hills,—such as Ben Nevis and Ben Lomond,—are hills of at least two heaves; and hence, in journeying through a gneiss district, there is a frequent feeling on the part of the traveller that the scenery is incomplete, but that a few hills, judiciously set down upon the tops of the other hills, would give it the proper finish. No hill, however, accomplishes more with a single heave than a gneiss one; the broad-based Ben Wyvis, that raises its head, white with other snows than those of age, more than three thousand feet over the sea, and looks down on all the other mountains of Ross-shire, is a characteristic gneiss hill of a single heave. Quitting the gneiss region, we cross a comparatively narrow strip of quartz rock. The quartz hills in its course are, however, not very characteristic. Such of you as may have sailed over the upper reaches of Loch Maree, with its precipitous, weather-bleached pyramidal hills, so bare of vegetation atop that their peaks