

may be seen gleaming white in the autumnal moonlight for miles, as if covered with snow, or who may have threaded your way through the deep and sterile valleys that open their long vistas towards the head of the lake, will be better able to conceive, than from aught witnessed in the course of our present day's journey, of the savage wildness of scenery,—savage and wild, but grand withal,—which is the proper characteristic of a quartz-rock district.

And now, the strip of quartz rock passed over, we enter into an extensive region of mica-schist,—a formation so favourable to the development of a picturesque beauty,—ever and anon rising into the sublime,—that what is peculiarly the classic ground of Highland scenery is to be found within its precincts. Loch Awe, Loch Long, Loch Goil, Loch Tay, by much the larger and finer part of Loch Lomond, all Loch Katrine, Ben Venue, Ben Ledi, Ben Lomond, and the Trossachs, with many a fine lake and stream besides, and many a noble hill, are included in this rich province of the mica-schist.

We first become aware that we are nearing the formation, by the peculiar contour of its hills, as seen at a distance of several miles. As we approach their grey rocks of silky lustre, we find that they are curved, wrinkled, contorted, so as to remind us of pieces of ill-laid-by satin, that bear on their crushed surfaces the creases and crumplings of a thousand careless foldings; and mark further, that it is to these curves and contortions of the strata that the tubercled outlines of the hills are owing, and, with these, the bold projecting knobs and sudden recesses which break up their surfaces into so many picturesque wildernesses of light and shade. Not unfrequently, however, vast masses of schist, of a structure as dense and solid as that of granite, occur in the micaceous districts; and these form hills of a simpler outline, which, like the rock which composes them, seem intermediate in character between the mica-schist and the