in the work. If we have an inclined plane with a long slope, gentle or steep, water will run upon it because of the slope; and, aided by atmospheric disintegration, it will cut out a channel, *but it cannot make a large rock-bound lake-basin*, though it can scoop out a small one below a waterfall, or where two rapid streams meet, it may hollow out a pool or linn by reason of the turbulence of the water.

Again, it has been contended that the hollows were formed *by the disturbance of the rocks, so as to throw them into a basin-shaped form.* But when we take such lakes as those of Geneva, the lake of Thun, the lakes of Lucerne, Zurich, Constance, and the great lakes on the Italian side of the Alps, or many of the Welsh, Cumberland, or Highland lakes, and examine the strata critically, we find that they do not lie in the form of basin-shaped, synclinal hollows, but, on the contrary, the *strike* of the strata often runs right across the lake-basins instead of circling round them, or they may be bent and contorted in a hundred curves all along and under the length of the lake. Such synclinal depressions are the rarest things in nature: that is to say, hollows formed of strata bent upwards at the edges all round into the form of a *great dish*, the very uppermost bed or beds of which shall be continuous and unbroken underneath the water of the lake. Some such synclinal hollows are found in the upper valleys of the Jura, but without lakes, and in which the drainage runs into *potholes*, and finds its way to the level of the Val de Travers, where ready-made rivers issue from caverns in the Secondary rocks. But these synclinal hollows can be explained on principles quite different from those I have to propound. If such synclinal lake-basins exist at all, I never saw