

CHAPTER II

NATURE'S SCULPTURE-TOOLS—AIR, RAIN, RIVERS, SPRINGS, FROST

THE process by which the scenery of a country is produced may be compared to sculpture. In the fashioning of a statue, the block of stone must first be lifted out of its bed in the parent rock, and then the sculptor's tools must be used upon it. Apart from the design and workmanship, the aspect of the statue will primarily depend on the nature of the material employed. Long practice has shown that statuary marble is best adapted for the purpose of the sculptor's art. But if conglomerate, or sandstone, or porphyry, or granite were chosen, the effect would in each case be different. So in the case of the dry land. There must first be an uplifting of the ground above sea-level, and then nature's tools will slowly carve its surface into the characteristic terrestrial shapes. The ultimate details of these shapes will be greatly influenced by the nature of the material, each kind of rock revealing its own peculiar characters and influence in the general process of land-sculpture. But much also will depend upon the particular tools which nature may use, and on the energy with which she wields them. The tools that have been most effective in the carving of the land