the rocks present the same structure to the action of the water. But if, owing to any change in their arrangement or character, the materials over which the water leaps can be more rapidly cut away than those underneath them, then the wall behind the cascade will gradually be cut down, and instead of one shoot of water there will be a series of little falls or a line of rapids.

Much may be learnt in such a little dingle regarding the action of rivers in hollowing out their channels. In not a few places, for instance, round, well-worn basins may be noticed in the rocks forming the bed of the stream. During dry summer weather, when the brooks are low, these basins or pot-holes may be easily examined. Each of them will be found to have its bottom covered with smooth, polished stones or gravel, and its sides will be seen to be equally worn. The activity of the stream is then almost at zero, and one can hardly, perhaps, imagine how such deep, circular cavities could have been scoured out of the solid rock. But let any one visit the same scene when the stream in flood comes roaring down the rocky gorge, sweeping along its burden of mud, sand, gravel, and stones, when the boulders may be heard striking against each other as the torrent thrusts them forward, and when in a few hours many tons of detritus are carried down and pushed along the bottom and sides of the channel. He will then better understand what a powerful grinding mill the stream at its full flood must be, and how it can wear away its bottom and walls so as both to widen and deepen its channel. When such a line of drainage has once been graven on the surface of the country, hardly anything short of what would be truly a convulsion of nature can turn the water out of it. The line sinks farther and farther into the solid framework of the land.

Continuing our course down the stream, we pass beyond