

## CHAPTER VII

### THE TABLE-LAND OF THE HIGHLANDS

IF the observer who has mastered the geological details given in the foregoing chapter would grasp at once the leading features of Highland scenery and their relation to geological structure, let him betake himself to some Highland mountain-top that stands a little apart from its neighbours, and looks over them into the wilds beyond. A better height could not be chosen than the summit of Ben Nevis. None other rises more majestically above the surrounding hills, or looks over a wider sweep of mountain and moor, glen and corry, lake and firth, far away to the islands that lie amid the western sea. In no other place is the general and varied character of the Highlands better illustrated. And from none can the geologist, whose eye is open to the changes wrought by sub-aërial waste on the surface of the country, gain a more vivid insight into their reality and magnitude. To this, as a typical and easily accessible locality, I shall have occasion to refer more than once. Let the reader, in the meantime, imagine himself on the highest peak of the British Isles, watching the shadows of an autumnal sky as they steal over the vast sea of mountains that lies spread out, as in a map, around