

mere minor irregularities of surface. And thus over the whole of the wide landscape, one mountain ridge appears after another, with the same large features, raising their smooth summits from glen to glen, but broken now and again where from some hidden valley a circular corry or craggy cliff lifts itself bare to the sun.

Much has been said and written about the wild tumbled sea of the Highland hills. But, as he sits on his high perch, does it not strike the observer that there is after all a wonderful orderliness, and even monotony, in the waves of that wide sea? And when he has followed their undulations from north to south, all round the horizon, does it not seem to him that these mountain-tops and ridges tend somehow to rise up to a general level, that, in short, there is not only, on the great scale, a marked similarity of contour about them, but a still more definite uniformity of average height? (Figs. 19, 23.) To many who have contented themselves with the bottom of the glen, and have looked with awe at the array of peaks and crags overhead, this statement will doubtless appear incredible. But let any one get fairly up to the summits and look along them, and he will not fail to see that the statement is nevertheless true. From the top of Ben Nevis this feature is impressively seen. Along the sky-line, the wide sweep of summits undulates up to a common level, varied here by a higher cone, and there by the line of some strath or glen, but yet wonderfully persistent round the whole panorama. If, as sometimes happens in these airy regions, a bank of cloud with a level under-surface should descend upon the mountains, it will be seen to touch summit after summit, the long line of the cloud defining, like a great parallel-ruler, the long level line of the ridges below. I have seen this feature brought out with picturesque vividness over the mountains of Knoydart and