

In Glen Falloch, for instance, some four or five such contractions with alluvial flats above them lie between Loch Lomond and the watershed.

Where two valleys head towards each other and are connected by a marked depression in the line of watershed, the hollow, col, or pass between them is known in the Highlands as a 'Balloch.' Every gradation may be met with, from a mere notch in a high ridge down to a nearly level continuous valley where, except by noting the flow of the drainage, it is hardly possible with the unaided eye to mark the position of the watershed (Fig. 40).

A crescent-shaped hollow or half-cauldron on the side of a mountain is called in the Highlands a 'corry,' in Wales a 'cwm.' Not infrequently corries encircle the head waters of rivers that take their rise among the loftier high grounds. Their sides are formed by steep rugged walls of rock, from the base of which long lines of debris, called 'scree,' descend to the bottom of the valley. The probable origin of ballochs and corries will be discussed farther on.

That valleys are essentially due to erosion has already been sufficiently enforced. What may have been the original form of the terrestrial surface on which the process of erosion first began can only be conjectured. The plications of the earth's crust which folded the rocks of the Highlands and Southern Uplands not improbably upraised above the sea a series of longitudinal ridges having a general north-easterly direction. The earliest rain that fell upon these ridges would run off them, first in transverse water-courses down each short slope, and then in longitudinal depressions wherever such had been formed. Once chosen, the pathways of the streams would be gradually deepened and widened. They would, as it were, sink into the framework of the land, and, no matter how much the general