

massive conglomerate are partly shown in Fig. 38. That this gorge has been entirely excavated since the Ice Age cannot be doubted. Immediately above it the valley expands and is filled with boulder-clay, which, burying the old channel, has driven the stream to cut a new one through the barrier of conglomerate.

The ravines of the Beauly, Nairn, and Findhorn are on a larger scale. But more striking still are the gorges that have been dug out of the Old Red Sandstone along the southern margin of the Highlands in Perthshire and Forfarshire. That of the Ericht, above Blairgowrie, reminds one of the cañons of the far west of America. It has been eroded in the conglomerate, and averages about 150 yards in width, and 150 to 180 feet in depth. As will be observed in the woodcut (Fig. 39), the parallel lines of joint, along which the rock splits, enable the ravine to maintain the verticality and parallelism of its walls. Farther east the gorges of the Isla and the Esk likewise furnish excellent illustrations of the peculiar aptitude with which the Old Red Sandstone lends itself to picturesqueness of detail in landscape. Among the crystalline schists of the Highlands, the cañon or steep-walled type of river-gorge is much less frequent, obviously because, as a rule, there is much less regularity of structure, and especially of joints, among these rocks. But where the schists are not much crumpled, and are traversed by regular parallel joints, they supply examples of deep, narrow ravines. Perhaps the best example in the Highlands of this feature is to be seen in the course of the River Broom, which falls into the head of Loch Broom. The flaggy schists which there dip in regular beds at low angles towards the south are cut by well-defined parallel joints, and the little river has excavated in them a profound chasm