

west ridges of the Highlands are traceable to the same cause.

But besides influencing the general disposition of the high grounds, geological structure has played a great part in determining the individuality even of single ridges and hills. Though each eminence has been cut into its form by denudation, its actual outlines have been determined by the nature of its rocks and the manner in which they have yielded to decay. Every distinct variety of rock has impressed its own characters upon the landscapes in which it plays a part. Hence amid the monotonous succession of ridge beyond ridge, and valley after valley, considerable diversity of detail has resulted from the varying composition and grouping of the rocks. It is to this cause that we must ascribe the great variety of Highland scenery. The mountains and glens, for instance, of Skye, of the Trossachs, and of the Cairn Gorm mountains, have all been carved out by erosion with the same sculpture-tools. Yet the results are in each case very different; because in each of the districts the rocks are distinct. In the north of Skye, the valleys wind among soft green terraced hills of igneous rocks, and almost recall some of the pastoral uplands of the southern counties. Around the Trossachs, the glens have been cut out of tough, gnarled schist, which is worn away unequally into knobs and bosses and steep craggy declivities. Among the Cairn Gorm mountains, the savage cauldron-like corries and precipices have been carved out of granite—a rock which, from its usual decomposing character and its abundant vertical joints, combines in its decay a grandeur of lofty cliff with a smoothness of mountain-top such as none of the other Highland rocks can boast.

These local peculiarities of scenery could be brought out