

It is not needful to multiply illustrations. Enough has now been said to demonstrate that throughout the whole of the wide Lowlands the present undulating surface is the result of enormous denudation. The abrupt solitary crags rising from smooth-swept plains, the long wide open valleys, the truncated ends of strata protruding into mid-air, the deep defiles that trench the highest ridges, even on the watershed of the country,—all tell of long-continued erosion. Enormous dislocations, which, had they not been effaced, would have left the country an impassable network of interlacing precipices and ravines, have been all planed down, until not even a geologist would, from the form of the ground, suspect their existence. It is impossible to turn in any direction without meeting proofs of this vast and universal denudation.

There is a vague popular notion that the igneous rocks, which form the chief eminences in the Midland Valley, have been upheaved bodily through the other formations into the light of day, and that it is to the forms assumed by them on their eruption that the present irregularities in the surface are to be traced. Such an idea, however, cannot be held by one who knows that the greater part of the igneous material was ejected contemporaneously with the deposition of the strata among which it occurs; and that it has suffered along with these strata in all the long series of foldings, fractures, and denudations. Even those igneous masses, which have been thrust up among rocks previously formed, can often be shown to have consolidated beneath the surface, and to be now at last exposed, only because the rocks under which they lay have been worn away. The truth is that the hills and crags of igneous origin are among the most striking proofs of denudation. They were once buried deep under stratified formations which have been removed,