

to account for than the origin of many lakes. When thought about at all it is easy to see that lakes are the result of the formation of hollows, a great proportion of which can be easily proved to be *rock-basins*—that is to say, hollows entirely surrounded by solid rocks, the waters not being retained by mere loose detritus. But the great difficulty is, how and why were such large numbers of these *rock-basins* made in special regions?

I have often been so much misunderstood and misrepresented in this matter, that those who had not read my early papers on the subject might easily have supposed that I attributed the origin of all lake-basins to glacial erosion, and that in spite of my having, in print, formally disclaimed any such idea. It is not likely that any man could have entertained it who had seen lakes in old volcanic craters, who was familiar with the fact of subsidences in old and new volcanic regions, and who, besides, expressly stated that there were doubtless other kinds of lakes, the origin of which he probably knew nothing about.

A great many lakes lie in valleys, and many persons in times past and present have been easily satisfied as to the causes that produced mountains, valleys, and lakes. To the uneducated, the first and obvious explanation is, that in all its grand features the world was originally made very much as it now stands. With the half educated, even in geology, the explanation is, that the irregularities of the surface have been caused purely by dislocations, or, going one step further, that deep openings 'were primarily due to *cracks* which took place during the various movements which each chain has undergone at various periods,' the meaning of which I conceive to be, that mountain valleys necessarily lie in lines of curvature, dislocation, and fracture, and that