

A few apparent exceptions to this statement rise along the western sea-board of Sutherland, in Skye, and elsewhere ; but an examination of their structure at once explains the reason of their prominence, and confirms the rule.

The Highlands are separated into two completely disconnected and in some respects contrasted regions by the remarkable line of the Great Glen, which runs from the Linnhe Loch to Inverness. In the north-western portion, the highest ground rises along the west coast, mounting steeply from the sea to an average height of perhaps between 2000 and 3000 feet, but occasionally throwing up a summit a thousand feet higher. The watershed consequently keeps close to the Atlantic sea-board ; indeed in some places it is not more than a mile and a half distant from the beach. From these heights, which catch the first downpour of the western rains, the ground falls eastwards, but with numerous heights that prolong the mountainous character to the edge of the North Sea and the line of the Great Glen. The best conception of the difference in the general level on the two sides of the watershed may be obtained by observing the contrast between the lengths of the streams. On the western side, the drainage is poured into the Atlantic Ocean after flowing only a few miles, while on the eastern side it has to run six or eight times the distance. At the head of Loch Nevis, the western stream is only three miles long ; that which starts from the eastern side has a course of some eighteen miles to the Great Glen. Throughout this northern or north-western region, a general uniformity of feature characterises the scenery, betokening even at a distance the general monotony in the structure of the underlying schists. But the sameness is relieved along the western coast of Sutherland and Ross by singular groups of cones and stacks (to be afterwards referred to), and farther south by the