

Kirriemuir.
 Cat Law.
 Glas Meal.
 Dee.
 Ben Macdhui.
 Spey.
 Inverness.

FIG. 25.—Section of the Grampian Range from Inverness to Kirriemuir. (Vertical and horizontal scale the same.)

for vertical as for horizontal distance, brings out clearly the comparative insignificance of the eminences which we dignify with the name of mountains, and shows how gently a line drawn along the tops of the ridges descends on either side from the axis of the country (Fig. 25). From the top of Ben Macdhui (4296 feet), for example, north-westward to the crest of the hills overlooking the Moray Firth (say 1300 feet above the sea-level), is a distance of about twenty-eight miles, and the angle of descent would be not more than about 1 in 50. From the same central elevation to the south-eastern verge of the Highland mountains, the angle would be not quite so much, as the distance is rather more, and the average height of the broad table-land there is greater than on the opposite border. These slopes would not be so steep as some railway gradients now in use.

What does this general uniformity of level mean? It has plainly nothing to do with geological structure. On the contrary, from the extraordinarily crumpled, plicated, and dislocated condition of the Highland rocks, we might have expected the external configuration of the country to have borne a close relation to that dislocated structure: to have risen into huge irregular mountains where the rocks had been thrust upwards, and to have sunk