marking where the narrow transverse ridge now rises. The granite mountains of Arran likewise present good examples of passes in their various stages of progress (Fig. 40). Thus, the glens on either side of Goatfell are separated by crests of splintered crumbling granite, which are manifestly being lessened in height and width. The crest that once joined Caisteal Abhail and Cir Mhòr has been reduced to a high rocky col separating the head of Glen Sannox from a tributary of the Iorsa. But the craggy ridge that interveened betwen the head of Glen Rosa and Glen Sannox has been cut down into a mere low pass.

Such I believe to have been the origin of the numerous long Highland valleys in which there is a central inconspicuous point whence the water flows in opposite directions. In the lower parts of the country, the waves of the sea during a time of depression, and among the hills the grinding of glaciers during the Ice Age, may have lent their aid in completing the levelling of the barrier between the advancing glens. But the main part of the work was no doubt done by sub-aërial disintegration and erosion.

Most of the high roads across the Highlands are carried through such continuous valleys, where the watershed is often so imperceptible that it may be crossed unawares, even by one who is on the outlook for it. The road from Loch Carron, across Ross-shire to Contin, seems to run along one great transverse valley, bounded on either side by lofty hills; yet if the tourist watches the flow of the water, where, among old glacier moraines, the road reaches a height of rather more than 600 feet above the sea, he will observe that the streams flow off in opposite directions, one set turning eastwards, and falling into the Cromarty Firth, the other bending south-westward, and joining the Atlantic in Loch Carron. There is no mountain, hill, or ridge, not even a