

called mountain in Scotland be adduced as owing its forms directly to underground movement. In every case, it has been slowly carved out during the general degradation of the whole surface. I have already insisted that there are proofs of gigantic upthrusts of the earth's crust ; but the lines of these great movements are not marked by ranges of mountain. On the contrary, the ground that has demonstrably been pushed up is now often lower than the tracts around it ; while masses of mountainous ground that tower boldly above the surrounding hills will be searched in vain for any geological structure indicative of special local upheaval.

While it is vain to look for any trace of the aboriginal surface among the present high grounds of Scotland, we may reasonably infer that the oldest surfaces which are likely to be in any measure preserved or indicated are portions of some of the platforms of erosion which in the long ages of geological history have successively been produced. I have described at some length the ancient table-land of the Highlands as a relic of this erosion, and I propose now to ask the reader's attention to some exceptional localities where considerable portions of the general surface of that table-land appear to have escaped demolition.

Allusion has already been made to the remarkable flat-topped moorlands which in the eastern Grampians reach heights of 3000 to 4000 feet above the sea. These lofty plateaux descend, sometimes by craggy precipices, sometimes by steep declivities, into the deep glens that traverse them and separate them into ridges and isolated eminences. Their most familiar example, perhaps, is the top of Lochnagar, where when the level of 3500 feet has been gained the traveller finds himself on a broad undulating moor, more than a mile and a half long, sloping gently southward