

ever, yields a kindly soil, on which good grass and many flowering plants find a place. The tracts of limestone are thus easily recognised, even from some distance, by the contrast between their bright verdure and the dun-coloured heath around them. From a hill-top we may trace the course of a limestone band for miles, as a belt of green that winds from brown hillside into browner valley. The rock itself may protrude only in occasional knobs and hummocks. Where these occur on a grassy mound they are usually found in some number, and, by one unacquainted with them, might naturally be taken for white mouldering tombstones standing in a long dismantled graveyard. Even across a swampy piece of moor the limestone may sometimes be traceable by the line of pits or swallow-holes which, dissolved out of its outcrop by percolating water, allow the thick cover of peat to sink into them.

The great series of schists and other crystalline rocks, that constitute most of the Scottish Highlands, offers many illustrations of the connection between the nature of the rock and the resulting form of the surface. The harder and more quartzose the rocks and the more regular their system of joints, the loftier and more rugged, as a rule, are the heights into which they rise. The gnarled and twisted mica-schists and fine gneisses tower into some of the most conspicuous heights in the west of Inverness-shire. Perhaps the defile of Glen Shiel, with its encircling group of lofty naked hills, may be taken as one of the best examples of the more savage and rugged forms which these rocks assume (Fig. 41). Dark masses of bare rock piled upon each other give a corrugated outline to the steep acclivities that mount up into an array of broken serrated ridges and deep corries, over which frown the peaks of Glenelg. Less accessible, but not less striking examples of the same