

flat, bare, unworn faces are retained by blocks that have evidently been resting many a long century alone on the moor. The dull red colour of the stone, too, gives it an additional distinction, which harmonises well with the sombre tints of the surrounding heath.

Granite in detached crags and boulders varies in its power of resistance to decay as greatly as it does in mountain mass. But detached blocks allow some of the details of the weathering to be better examined. They show, for instance, how prone the rock is to disintegration by the decomposition of its felspar. Hence the huge angular masses, into which it splits by the opening of its joints, do not long retain their sharp edges (see Fig. 1). As they slide down the declivities and are attacked all over their surfaces by atmospheric disintegration, they crumble down into mere sand. This very rapidity of decomposition tends to keep them bare of vegetation, for the outer crust of rotten stone breaks up or is washed off before plants can take root upon it. A granite foreground consequently presents some characteristic details. The rock rises into bare bosses, and these, by means of their vertical and horizontal joints, weather out into fantastic groups of rounded blocks, some of which may come eventually to be poised on mere points of their mass, and to form rocking stones. Everywhere the rounded forms of the granite meet the eye. The scattered boulders, if we did not know their parent rock to be close at hand, might be supposed to have journeyed from a long distance. Where the felspar is pink it may give a warm rosy hue to the stone, but more usually the grey or white tint of that mineral remains with but little change on exposed faces. Hence, in its poverty of inherent colour, granite presents a strong contrast with many of the other rocks of the Highlands.