

buried under younger formations, which thus preserved them, and that their subsequent exposure by denudation belongs to a comparatively recent geological period. From the evidence of the Tertiary dykes we know that, in some cases at least, the valleys were still buried even in older Tertiary time (see p. 310). Hence the continued existence of a very ancient valley furnishes, when fully considered, no real argument against the view that the rapidity of denudation is such as to show that the present topography of the country cannot be of high geological antiquity.

It is unnecessary to enter into details of the results of sub-aërial waste; for, making allowance for the different materials operated on, they do not differ in any essential feature from those already described from the Highlands. Numerous examples, for instance, might be cited of the recession of two glens towards each other, and of the final result of this degradation in the formation of a valley or pass across the intervening ridge. Some of the best illustrations of this kind of land-sculpture may be seen in the deep valleys about the sources of the Moffat, Megget, and Talla Waters. Moffatdale itself is connected by such a pass with the Vale of Yarrow. In the same region may be seen the few true corries of the north-eastern half of the uplands. It is in the south-western part of the region, however, that these features are best exhibited. Narrow crests, high cols, and worn-down passes abound in the mountainous ground between Dalmellington and Wigton.

Nor need more than a passing allusion be made to the influence of the varying character of the rock upon the aspect of the scenery. I have already noticed the rugged outlines of Galloway and Carrick, as contrasted with the smooth monotony of the Peeblesshire and Lammermuir hills, and have referred this difference to the greater variety