you find a few trailing spikes of *Nassauvia serpens*, or a few heads of the graceful drooping chrysanthemum-like *Chabræa suaveolens*.

These stone rivers are looked upon with great wonder by the shifting population of the Falklands, and they are shown to visitors with many strange speculations as to their mode of formation. Their origin seems, however, to be obvious and simple enough, and on that account their study is all the more instructive, for they form an extreme case of a phenomenon which is of wide occurrence, and whose consequences are, I believe, very much underrated.

There can be no doubt that the blocks of quartzite in the valleys are derived from the bands of quartzite in the ridges above, for they correspond with them in every respect; the difficulty is to account for their flowing down the valley, for the slope from the ridge to the valley is often not more than six to eight degrees, and the slope of the valley itself only two or three, in either case much too low to cause blocks of that form either to slide or to roll down.

The process appears to be this: The beds of quartzite are of very different hardness; some are soft, passing into a crumbling sandstone, while others are so hard as to yield but little to ordinary weathering. The softer bands are worn away in process of time, and the compact quartzites are left as long projecting ridges along the crests and flanks of the hill-ranges. When the process of the disintegration of the softer beds has gone on for some time, the support of their adjacent beds is taken away from the denuded quartzites, and they give way in the direction of the joints, and the fragments fall over upon the gentle slopes of the hill-side. The vegetation soon covers the fallen fragments, and usually near the sloping outcrops of the hard quartz, a slight inequality only in the surface of the turf indicates that the loose blocks are imbedded beneath it. Once imbedded in the vegetable soil, a number of causes tend