

tainous character of the *Highlands*, and of the softer features of the *Lowlands*. It is briefly this : that, in very ancient geological times, before the deposition of the Upper Silurian series and Old Red Sandstone, the Lower Silurian rocks, which form almost entirely the northern half of Scotland, had already been raised high into the air, metamorphosed, and greatly disturbed. Such metamorphic rocks, though, as a whole, difficult of destruction, *yet consist of intermingled masses of different degrees of hardness*, whence the great variety of their outlines is the result of the softer rocks having been most easily worn away. In the south of Scotland, from Galloway to the coast of Berwickshire, the same strata, forming the upland of the Carrick, Moorfoot, and Lammermuir hills, have been equally disturbed, though perhaps not originally raised to the same height, but being comparatively unmetamorphosed, they are generally somewhat less hard, and have therefore been more wasted by denudation, whence their average lower elevation. Though the mountains of these southern Highlands cannot compare in height with those of the north, they are sometimes both striking and picturesque in outline, especially where associated as gneiss and other metamorphic rocks with great bosses of granite and quartz-porphyrines, in Wigtonshire, Kirkcudbrightshire, and Selkirkshire, in the south of Scotland. These gneissose lines run in the general strike of the strata, all the way from Lauderdale, to the cliffs of the Rhinns of Galloway that bound St. Patrick's Channel.

Nothing can be more impressive, in its way, than the noble amphitheatre of hills that surround the sombre moorland basins of Loch Doon, Loch Finlas, and the smaller lakes and tarns that lie further south and west of the Rhinns of Ketts, the highest granitic peak of