

I know myself, but for fuller details the reader must refer to Professor Geikie's work, from which part of what I have to say is drawn.

By referring to any good geological map of Scotland and the north of England, it will be seen that the country is intersected by two great valleys, running from north-east to south-west, viz., the valley of Loch Ness running from Moray Firth to Loch Linnhe, and also the valleys of the Forth and Clyde. If we go farther south another valley traverses England from Tyne-mouth to the Solway Firth. The general strike of all the older formations of Scotland is more or less from south-west to north-east, and starting from the watershed of the north-west of Scotland between Loch Linnhe and Cape Wrath, it will be seen that almost all the larger rivers flow to the east and south-east, transverse to the strike of the strata. In fact, like the Thames, they may be said to start from a great scarp watershed facing the Atlantic, and run from thence more or less in accordance with the general dip of the strata, or rather in conjunction with that, down a sloping plain of marine denudation, till they find their way into the sea or into the great valley of Loch Ness. Thus, in some degree, they follow the same general law that guided the east-flowing rivers of England, though traversing much more mountainous ground, they have cut their valleys in hard, greatly disturbed, and metamorphic Lower Silurian strata.

South of the Great Valley, the rivers follow a north-east course, in Strath Dearn and Strath Spey, approximately parallel to the trend of the Great Valley, running in valleys probably excavated in lines of strike occupied by strata, less hard than the general mass of the country. The Tay does the same in the upper part