

height of the land to the sea must have been less than at present.

Again, the great Wall of Antoninus, erected as a barrier against invasions by the northern barbarians of the territory conquered by the Romans, must have been brought down close to the sea level at both ends. Its eastern termination is recognised by most antiquaries as having been placed near Carriden, where the great Falkirk flats disappear along the shore. Its western extremity, not having the favourable foundation of a steep rising ground, now stands a little way back from the sea-margin of the Clyde. When it was built it was probably carried to the point where the chain of the Kilpatrick Hills, descending abruptly into the water, saved any further need for fortification. But owing to a probable rise of the land, a level space of ground, twenty or twenty-five feet above the sea, now lies between high-water mark and the base of the hills, and runs westward from the termination of the wall for several miles as far as Dumbarton. Had this belt of land existed then, there appears little reason to doubt that the Romans would not have been slow to take advantage of it, so as completely to prevent the Caledonians from crossing the narrow parts of the river, and drive them into the opener reaches of the estuary below Dumbarton.

While the position of marine shells *in situ* proves the former presence of the sea at a height of 20 or 25 feet above its present level, along both sides of the island, it is possible that in the case both of the Clyde and Forth, the change of level within the human period may be partly due to silting up, though it must always be extremely difficult to draw a line between the results of the two operations.