

alluvial meadow-lands like those of the Tweed spread out in the broader space between their bases. Except by the water-courses, or where they have been planted along the lower parts of the hills, as a shelter for sheep, there are no trees. Nor do we meet with that union of crags and scars and broken ground, with masses of purple heather, ferns, and wild-flowers, which enters so largely into a typical Highland landscape. It is, in short, a smooth, green, pastoral country, cultivated along the larger valleys, with its hills left bare for sheep, yet showing enough of dark bushless moor to remind us of its altitude above the more fertile plains that bound it on the northern and southern sides.

The south-western half of the Southern Uplands, stretching from Nithsdale to Portpatrick, though marked by the same great features of a wide table-land cut into distinct ridges by systems of valleys, yet shows a good many local peculiarities. It rises in Galloway into a cluster of mountains, of which the highest, Merrick, is 2764 feet above the sea—the most elevated ground in the south of Scotland. These heights are more Highland-like in their wildness than those of any other part of the south of Scotland. Their tops indeed are smooth, but their sides are often deeply gashed with gullies and glens, or scarped with abrupt precipices. No scenery in the whole of the uplands can compare, for naked and rugged grandeur, with the glens of the Merrick and Kells hills. There are no trees, no cultivation, and but little trace of man. The mountains descend in a wilderness of shattered crags into dark glens, where the streamlets are often caught in little tarns, or dashed in foaming cataracts over ledge and cliff. Between these hills and the coast of Wigtonshire, lies a region of rough moor, mottled with endless moraine hummocks and scores of gleaming lakes.

Some of the outer features of this region will be again