

(Fig. 75). But another range of heights formed by the lavas and sandstones of the Carboniferous series sets in a little way beyond, and, swelling out into the Campsie Fells and the Lennox Hills, descends upon the Clyde at Dumbarton. The same rocks have been already referred to as crossing the Clyde, rising into high ground in Renfrewshire, and stretching south-eastwards as a moorland region between Ayrshire and Lanarkshire. This belt of volcanic rock thus separates the valley and coal-basin of the Clyde from those of Ayrshire. To the north-east of it, Carboniferous rocks extend in a wide undulating plain throughout the rest of the Midland Valley. The stratified parts of this system would by themselves form a rather featureless district, but they comprise many intercalated bands and bosses of hard igneous rocks which project into numerous prominent hills and crags. The most important interruption to the continuity of the Carboniferous plain is made by the chain of the Pentland and Braid Hills, which, composed of conglomerates, sandstones, and volcanic rocks of the Lower Old Red Sandstone, rise to a height of 1900 feet, and striking north-eastwards from the edge of the Silurian uplands, project as far as the southern suburbs of Edinburgh.