

Sandstone, as I have already remarked, yields by far the most striking river scenery in Scotland.

In following the details of the vast denudation which has levelled the Lowlands, it is not uninteresting to trace, as in the case of the Highlands, how each marked variety of rock has imparted its own peculiar outlines to the scenery. By much the most noticeable rocks in this respect are those of igneous origin—the felsites, diabases, porphyrites, basalts, and tuffs. I do not know of any large mass of them that does not form a ridge or hill; even their smaller protrusions usually project at the surface as little mounds, or craggy knobs. But not only so; their leading varieties weather each in a fashion of its own. Thus the felsites and porphyrites tend to decompose into smooth conical eminences, usually coated with turf which, when broken here and there along the slopes, allows scree of detritus to slide down the hill. The noblest example in the whole of the district is Tinto, a huge mass of bright flesh-coloured rock rising to a height nearly 1700 feet above the Clyde, which washes its base, and 2300 feet above the sea. Smaller and less perfect cones may be traced towards the north-east, from Quothquan into the Pentland Hills, and far to the east they reappear in Traprain and North Berwick Law. North of the Forth, a constant succession of eminences, often conical in form, marks the position and abundance of igneous rocks from Stirling to the eastern coasts of Fife, Forfarshire, and Kincardineshire. The cones are sometimes united to each other, thus forming a long range of hills, as in the Sidlaw Hills. In other cases, the rocks of this class have been worn into smooth undulating billowy hills, which nevertheless tend, ever and anon, to take the conical form, as may be seen in the eastern half of the Ochils.

It is hardly necessary to remark, that though these cones