

older terrace, of which the surface lies about 100 feet above the sea, is traversed by the railway at Larbert and northwards [380]. At Bannockburn Station the line descends to the level of the Carse [402], and runs along that platform to Stirling. The bank that formed the coast-line, when the sea overspread the Carse, rises as a marked feature on the left hand as the train approaches Stirling. The views from Stirling are referred to at the bottom of this page.

(5.) **To Stirling by Steamboat.**—By taking this excursion a good opportunity is afforded of comparing the outlines of the two sides of the estuary of the Forth. To the west of Borrowstounness the hills on the southern side retire inland from the Firth, and allow the broad plain of the Carse of Falkirk to extend westwards up to Stirling [380]. The upper edge of this platform is about 50 feet above the sea. At Kincardine, where the estuary may be said to merge into the river, relics of the 100-foot platform of marine erosion may be seen. The two hills of Airth on the south side of the river must have been islands in the middle of the channel at the time when the Carse was in course of formation. Above Alloa the river winds in a series of serpentine curves, known as the 'links' of Forth. The high grounds on either side begin to draw nearer. On the north, the range of the Ochil Hills rises abruptly from the edge of the plain, and shows on its southern front the alternate bands of porphyrite and volcanic conglomerate of which its hills are composed. This structure is particularly well displayed on Dumyat [Fig. 75]. To the south the long line of the Campsie Fells slopes down into the plain, flanked on the eastern side by the great sheet of diabase which forms the line of lower hills that terminate in the rock of Stirling Castle.

From the foot of Stirling Castle rock to the foot of the Abbey Craig (which is a continuation of the same ridge), the Carse is a mile in width, and the Forth winds across it in wide loops. Immediately to the west, however, the valley expands again to a breadth of more than three miles. The thick peat-mosses which once covered most of the Carse are still to be seen in this upper part of the valley, though even there they have been in great measure reclaimed and turned into arable land [347, 391].

The visitor, if the day is clear, must on no account omit to see the panoramic view from Stirling Castle. The peculiar