

## XIV.

THE GEOLOGICAL INFLUENCES WHICH HAVE  
AFFECTED THE COURSE OF BRITISH HIS-  
TORY.<sup>1</sup>

PROBABLY few readers realise to how large an extent the events of history have been influenced by the geological structure of the ground whereon they have been enacted. I propose to illustrate this influence from some of the more salient features in the early human occupation of the British Islands, and in the subsequent historical progress of the English people. No better proof of the reality of the relation in question could be given than the familiar contrast between the heart of England and the heart of Scotland. The one area is a region of low plains, inhabited by an English-speaking race; richly agricultural in one part, teeming with a busy mining population in another; dotted with large cities; the air often foul from the smoke of thousands of chimneys, and resonant with the clanking of innumerable manufactories and the screams of locomotives flying hither and thither over a network of railways. The other region is one of rugged mountains and narrow glens

<sup>1</sup> Introductory Lecture at the opening of the session of the Class of Geology in the University of Edinburgh, November 1881. *Millar's Magazine*, March 1882.