

North Sea and the vale of the Nith. Yet, in the higher parts of the district, the smoothness and verdure of the hills are here and there exchanged for bold rocky scarps, bare crags and cliffs, and deep narrow defiles, like the romantic Pass of Dalveen among the Lowther Hills, that remind us now and then of parts of the Highlands. Where the ground rises into the group of Broad Law and Hart Fell, more rugged features are seen in the deep dark glens that lead into Moffatdale, as those of Black's Hope, Carreifran, and the Grey Mare's Tail; in the solitary glen of the Talla, and in the crescent-shaped cliffs of White Coomb and the Loch Craig, that 'frown round dark Loch Skene.'

Yet, though the flanks of the hills which form the higher parts of the uplands are thus cut into rocky declivities and narrow defiles, the prevailing character of a table-land is still impressively retained. Let the geologist ascend to the top of the Broad Law which, at a height of 2754 feet, overlooks the whole of the surrounding country. The summit of this hill is a wide level moor, of which some 300 or 400 acres lie above the contour line of 2500 feet. If it stood at a lower level, it is flat enough to be used as a race-course. From this elevation one sees a vast sweep of hills rising one after another, with long smooth coalescing summits that form, where seen from this height, a wide table-land. Were it not, indeed, for the deep valleys that can be traced threading their way through these hills, a stranger spirited away and set down on the Broad Law might easily imagine that he had been taken to some league-long moorland in the lowland plains. And even if he cannot get to the top, save by the prosaic and somewhat toilsome process of climbing, his walk, while it will give him a lively sense of the height of the table-land, will not diminish the wonder