

and the depression of the Midland Valley, we cannot tell, but their fragmentary condition must be taken into account in reasoning out the history of their valleys, and especially of those remarkable cases where the streams flow completely across them.

I have already mentioned that the position of a watershed may be of much interest and importance in any inquiry into the history of the surface of the region which it traverses. The watershed of the Southern Uplands supplies an excellent example of this relation. Running from the mouth of Loch Ryan in a sinuous north-easterly direction, it keeps near the northern limit of the region till, reaching the basin of the Nith, it quits the hills altogether, descends into the lowlands of Ayrshire, and after circling round the headwaters of the Nith, strikes south-eastward across half the breadth of the uplands. It next turns abruptly northward and eastward, between the basins of the Clyde, Tweed, and Annan, and then through the moors that surround the sources of the Ettrick, Teviot, and Jed, into the Cheviot Hills. Throughout this region, as in the Highlands, the longest slope is to the east, where the Tweed bears the drainage of that side into the sea. Although the rocks have a persistent north-east and south-west strike, and though this trend is apparent in the bands of more rugged hills that mark the outcrop of hard grits and greywackes, nevertheless geological structure has been less effective in determining lines of ridge and valley than in the Highlands. Obviously the watershed wanders to and fro across the region, without reference to any dominant axis produced by the plication and upheaval of the Silurian rocks. It must have been traced out at a time when the structure of these rocks did not influence the surface features : in other words, when the Silurian strata were buried under younger forma-