

lands and Southern Uplands. Scores of these dykes traverse the Midland Valley, in a general east and west or south-east and north-west direction (Fig. 72). There is a noticeable convergence among them, in the western part of the region, towards a point in the Firth of Clyde, between Dunoon and Greenock, as if that had been a focus from which the fissures radiated that were filled with the uprising lava. As in the other parts of Scotland, the dykes do not play a prominent part among the surface-features of the Lowlands. Here and

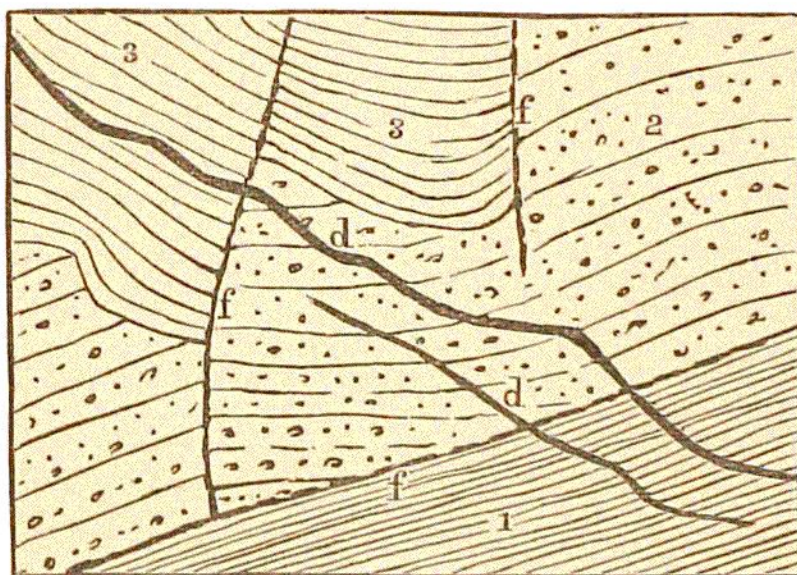


FIG. 72.—Map of Tertiary Dykes near Muirkirk, Ayrshire. 1, Silurian rocks. 2, Lower Old Red Sandstone. 3, Carboniferous rocks. *f*, Faults. *dd*, Dykes.

there, they may be noticed as ribs of harder rock, projecting in groups of low crags or detached blocks along the top of a ridge or the side of a hill, and marked by the brighter green of the grass which springs up on their crumbled surface. Along the coast they run sometimes as conspicuous walls, owing to the removal of the softer strata on either side. Good examples of this feature are to be seen in Cumbrae and in Arran (Fig. 73). In other cases, the dykes decompose faster than the enclosing rocks, and are consequently hollowed out, leaving the gaping walls of the fissures