

loss of hundreds of feet of rock from the surface of the country since the epoch of the Tertiary volcanic outbursts.

The physical features of the broad belt of lowland that separates the high grounds of the Highlands from the Southern Uplands are much less simple and more difficult clearly to describe than those of the surrounding areas. But by taking note of the character and distribution of the rocks, we may obtain the best idea of the topography and of its relation to the geological structure.

Beginning, then, at the northern edge of the valley, we find a wide plain of Old Red Sandstone, extending along the base of the Highland hills, from the North Sea to the Clyde, and bounded on the southern side by the long ridges of the Sidlaw and Ochil Hills, and the heights of Campsie and Kilpatrick. The widest and lowest portion of this plain extends to the north-east of Perth, and forms the great valley known as Strathmore. But here and there its sandstones and conglomerates rise into conspicuous hills as in the heights of Finella and Caterthun. To the south-west of Perth, the same strata gradually rise towards Glen Artney until in Uam Var they attain a height of 2179 feet. The Ochil Hills are formed by a broad anticlinal fold of the volcanic rocks of the Old Red Sandstone. The axis of this plication runs in a north-easterly direction along the Carse of Gowrie, so that the great hollow of the Firth of Tay has been eroded along the top of an arch of the underlying rocks. The one limb of the arch is prolonged into the chain of the Fife hills as far as Tayport, and thence across the firth into the east of Forfarshire. The other limb runs onward along the line of the Sidlaw Hills (Fig. 77). The Ochil Hills plunge abruptly into the plain near Stirling, where they are truncated by the large dislocations that have let down the Carboniferous rocks of the valley of the Forth