

CHAPTER XIX

INFLUENCE OF THE PHYSICAL FEATURES OF SCOTLAND UPON THE PEOPLE

THE connection between the physical features of a country and the history and temperament of its people has hardly received, either from historians or geologists, the attention which it deserves. Though not obtrusive, it is real and close, and amid other and more potent influences has never ceased to play its part in the moulding of national character and progress. It may be seen (1) in the distribution and migration of races ; (2) in the historical development of a people ; (3) in industrial and commercial progress ; and (4) in national temperament and literature. I propose briefly to refer to the illustrations which these questions receive in Scotland.¹

(1.) The fundamental distinction between highlands and lowlands has had a powerful effect on the wanderings and ultimate grouping of the different races of mankind. Nowhere can the influence of this topographical contrast be better ob-

¹ A few passages in this chapter have already appeared in an essay on 'The Geological Influences which have affected the Course of British History,' which is included in my *Geological Sketches at Home and Abroad*, p. 353.