

centuries of warfare and plunder, was at last subdued. But no serious attempt was made to colonise his wilds with people of an alien race. He has been left in his glen or his sea-loch, and remains there.

Again, in the bitter contest that lasted through so many generations between the English-speaking people on the two sides of the Border, the influence of the scenery of the region in which the struggle was waged may be distinctly traced. The march of organised invasion and the path of undisciplined foray were alike determined by the strips of lowland and the passes through the hills, that gave access from the one country to the other. The crags which so greatly diversify the landscape of the Midland Valley were, from early times, the sites of fortified strengths. In the feudal ages these eminences, crowned with the simple massive keep, or with the more imposing castle, became the centres round which the population of each district gathered for mutual protection and assistance. Alike in local feuds and in the struggle for national independence, these fortified crags of Scotland were the heights against which the waves of war beat longest and loudest. At their feet, the clustering huts and booths were the forerunners of the stately streets that now occupy their sites. There can be no doubt that the position of the Scottish capital was determined in remote Celtic times by the easily defensible crag that rises so picturesquely in the midst of the modern city. Other famous sites will at once occur to the reader: Dumbarton, Stirling, Blackness, Dunnottar, Turnberry, Tantallon, Dunbar, and the Bass are familiar names in the stormy annals of Scotland.

This subject may be instructively pursued into detail, with the result of indicating how decisively some of the critical events in the political history of the country have