

to describe the condition of the ground, which was evidently altogether different from what we now see. The modern, fertile, and well-drained plain of the Carse was then a succession of meres and bogs, impassable for an army. Barbour tells us how the English tried to surmount these formidable difficulties—

‘For in the Kers pulis [pools] thar war,
Housis and thak [thatch] tha brak and bar
To mak briggis [bridges] quhar tha nicht pas :
And sum sais yhet the folk that was
In the Castell, qhen nicht can fall
For that tha knew thar mischief all,
Tha went furth ner all that tha war
And duris [doors] and windowis with them bar,
Sa that tha had before the day
Briggit the pulis, sa that tha
War passit our evirilkane [everyone]
And the hard feld on hors has tane,
All redy for to gif battale
Arait intill thar apparale.’

We thus learn that Bruce's famous device of the ‘pots’ was only an extension, on the higher and drier ground, of the kind of defence that nature had already provided for him on the lower land to his left. Across the impassable bogs and sheets of water of the Carse, the huge army of Edward could not march. It was consequently compelled to crowd its attack into the narrow space between these bogs and the higher grounds on Bruce's right, and lost the advantage of superior numbers.

(3.) The material development of Scotland and the Scottish people offers abundant evidence of the profound influence of geological structure and physical features. Thus the feral ground, or territory left in a state of nature, is strictly defined by the areas of the older rocks, which, rugged and sterile, refuse to come within the limits of cultivation. These terri-