

Valley the wide intervening region displays most of the characteristic features of Scottish lowland scenery, which may readily be connected with geological structure. To the west above the valley of the Forth at Stirling the volcanic rocks of the Old Red Sandstone [328] are seen to mount abruptly into the conspicuous lion-shaped hill of Dumyat, the most westerly spur of the Ochil chain, whence they extend eastwards as a continuous range of high ground, until cut off from view by the nearer group of the Lomonds [357]. The corresponding belt of Old Red Sandstone and volcanic rocks on the southern side of the Midland Valley comes much nearer to Edinburgh. It constitutes the chain of the Pentland and Braid Hills which advance to the southern suburbs of the town [338, 340]. A striking contrast is presented by the nearer landscape on the eastern and western sides. From the top of Arthur's Seat the whole Carboniferous basin of Midlothian can be seen stretching eastwards to the base of the Southern Uplands—a wide rolling plain, with no more marked feature than the Roman Camp Hill beyond Dalkeith, formed by the uprise of the thick lower limestones. With the exception of some trifling dykes not a single protrusion of igneous rock occurs in all that area. To the west and north, however, the Carboniferous formations abound with eruptive material, some of which was ejected as lava and ashes during the accumulation of the strata among which they are intercalated, while other portions were subsequently injected. Hence the region presents a most diversified outline. All the hills and crags which rise so abundantly to the west of Edinburgh, and along the whole of the opposite side of the Firth of Forth, owe their prominence to the hard volcanic rocks of which they consist. About eight miles to the westward the two diabase crags of Dalmahoy form a conspicuous landmark. To the right of these come the ridges of Ratho, Craigie, and Corstorphine. From the Calton Hill an excellent view may be obtained of the whole range of volcanic hills of Fife. These begin on the west with the Saline Hills—a group of cones which, projecting in front of the line of the Ochils, mark the position of volcanic vents of the Carboniferous Limestone period. From the narrows of the Firth at Queensferry eastward to Kirkcaldy a continuous belt of volcanic hills extends, mounting into abrupt, truncated, conical hills at Burntisland, where some of the chief eruptive vents