

to and fro, the numerous narrow valleys that enter it from either side, and the height of the hills that encircle it, are features that impress us as we pass mile after mile through them [287, 289, 294]. At Tweedsmuir Bridge the river foams down a set of rapids among projecting ledges of vertical greywacke. From this point the journey may either be continued up the Tweed, or deflected into the narrow glen of the Talla. The writer can recall many a pleasant day spent among these solitudes, with the shelter of old Wattie Dalgleish's cottage, at the foot of Talla Linns, to return to as night began to fall. Immediately above the Linns—a picturesque gorge cut by the Talla out of highly-inclined greywacke and shale—abundant mounds mark the moraines of the glacier that once crept down from the heights above Loch Skene [316]. The route may be followed down the Megget Water to St. Mary's Loch, where quarters may usually be had at the *hostelry* there. Or if there is still time, the pedestrian may push up the Talla, cross over the col at the top, descend upon Loch Skene [317], and thence, either by the Grey Mare's Tail or the moors, to Birkhill, at the head of Moffatdale, where limited accommodation may be had. From the lower part of the Talla a track turns off to the right, up a narrow glen which leads to Gameshope Loch—a lonely tarn lying among moraines to the north of the Hartfell ridge. The Loch Skene and Midland Burn moraines are described in Chapter XIV.

If no deviation is made at Tweedsmuir, the road leads south-westward up the valley of the Tweed, which now becomes rather opener and more featureless. Due south Hartfell rises in front along the sky-line to a height of 2651 feet; while the mass of Culter Fell (2454 feet) closes in the distance behind. The infant Tweed gushes out from a spring on the moor near the roadside. A little beyond this the watershed is reached, the highest point on the road being 1334 feet. Passing over a peat-covered moor the road begins to descend into Annandale, and soon reveals the singular concavity at the head of that valley known as the 'Devil's Beef Tub.' The erosion of this hollow must have been begun as far back as Permian times, for a little above Moffat Permian breccia is found lying on the floor of the valley [307].

From Peebles eastward the railway follows the line of the Tweed Valley to the Cadon Water, whence it strikes across