

been eroded valleys, as in Nithsdale and Loch Ryan. But the most remarkable proofs that rocks of Carboniferous age once extended over much of the Silurian region is supplied by the range of escarpments that run from Birrenswark in Annandale, eastwards through the lofty range of fells between Eskdale and the head of the Slitrig Water, and by the structure of the Sanquhar coalfield. The Eskdale and Ewesdale escarpments owe their prominence to the band of volcanic rocks at the base of the Carboniferous system. They look far over the moors to the north, and, with their overlying sheets of lower Carboniferous sandstone, no doubt once stretched for miles over the Silurian ground. In the San-

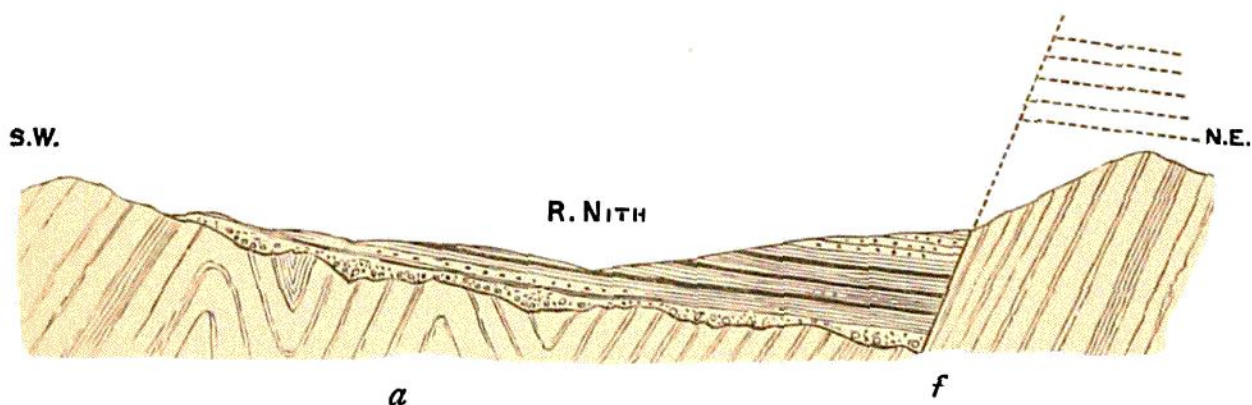


FIG. 65.—Section across the Sanquhar Coal-field. *a*, Silurian rocks covered by Coal-measures. *f*, Fault.

quhar coal-field, the Coal-measures lie directly upon the denuded edges of the Silurian strata and have been thrown down by a powerful fault along the east side of the valley (Fig. 65). The total thickness of Carboniferous strata in the valley is about 1200 feet. If these rocks could be restored to their original horizontal position, they would doubtless completely overspread all the surrounding Silurian hills.

Of younger date are the scattered patches of red Permian breccias and sandstones which lie in the bottom of the valleys of Nithsdale and Annandale, in a little basin among