

(1733 feet), the spectator sees below him, to the north and west, a rolling plain of woodlands and corn-fields, dotted with villages and mansions, down to the edge of the blue firth, and ranging westward beyond the crags and hills of Edinburgh. But he has only to turn round to the south and east to look over a dreary expanse of bare hill-top and bleak moor—wide lonely pastoral uplands, with scarce any further trace of human interference visible from this height than here and there a sheep-drain or grey cairn. Far away south, beyond the limits of this solitary region, the Eildon Hills, Rubers Law, and all the long chain of the Border heights eastward to the Cheviots, rise up with a softened outline from the green vale of Tweed. The surface of the Lammermuirs, like that of the greater part of these uplands, is singularly smooth. It is coated with short heath or coarse grass, save where a mantle of peat covers the hollows, or where the streams keep open their channels through the boulder-clay or rock. So smooth, broad, and grassy are these hill-tops, that they may be traversed from Lammer Law to the eastern end of the chain without showing anywhere the solid rock at the surface; and but for the distant view of the rich lowlands lying far below, the traveller might walk mile after mile in the belief that he was passing over a piece of wild moorland, such as occurs in the lower parts of the country, instead of the summit of a chain of hills some 1500 or 1600 feet above the sea. If, however, while moving along the ridge he approached its edge, especially towards its western end, he would find that it descends abruptly into the plains, and is deeply trenched with gullies and narrow glens, through which its drainage escapes to the low grounds.

These heights of Lammermuir may be taken as a fair sample of the general scenery of the country between the