Before concluding this enumeration of its rocks, I would say that it is the abundance of masses of igneous origin that gives to the geology of the broad Midland Valley its most distinctive feature. The Old Red Sandstone supplies the chain of the Sidlaw and Ochil Hills on the one side, and the Pentlands, Tinto, Corsincone, and the Brown Carrick Hills on the other. Not less important are the great sheets of lava and tuff which lie at the base of the Carboniferous system. These form the range of the Campsie and Kilpatrick Hills, with their noble escarpments facing across the Old Red Sandstone plain to the Highlands. Crossing the Clyde, they spread out in the uplands of Renfrewshire and North Ayrshire, where they rise into the terraced heights of Largs, and whence they run south-eastward in the high moorlands that extend to Loudon Hill. A similar series of lava and tuffs, belonging to the same geological period, was referred to in Chapter XIII. as reappearing on the southern side of the Silurian uplands, in the escarpments of Birrenswark and Ewes Water, and extending into the Merse of Berwickshire, in the range of heights crowned with Hume Castle. But besides occurring in widespreading sheets, the volcanic rocks associated with the Carboniferous system appear in the basin of the Forth in abundant bosses, many of which mark the sites of actual volcanic orifices. The larger of these masses are disposed in groups of hills, as at the Garlton Hills and the range of heights between Bathgate and Linlithgow. But in the great majority of instances, the rocks form solitary crags and isolated eminences, such as Arthur's Seat, the rocks of Edinburgh and Stirling Castles, Binny Craig, North Berwick Law, the Lomonds of Fife, Largo Law, the Bass Rock, and many more.

But for the existence of these igneous intercalations, the stratified formations of the Lowlands would have formed wide