

and they now rise up into prominent elevations, mainly because, being harder than the sedimentary rocks, they have been better able to hold their own in the long warfare with the elements.

Owing doubtless to the more varied geological structure of the region, and to its having been, throughout so large a section of geological time, an area of subsidence rather than of elevation, the history of the denudation of the Midland Valley is even less easily interpreted than that of the high grounds on either side. But without attempting to trace the stages of that long history, we shall attack the problem in its simplest form if we try to picture to ourselves a wide undulating plain resulting from prolonged denudation and catching on its surface the rain which gathered at once into brooks and rivers and traced out a system of drainage-lines.

In no part of Scotland is the line of watershed more independent of geological structure than in the Midland Valley. Descending from the ridge of Ben Lomond it strikes across the Bucklivie moors, ascends the face of the steep escarpment of the Fintry Hills, and after a circuitous course across the Campsie Fells, descends into the plain of the coal-fields. It then winds to and fro over the moors, crossing dykes, faults, and the strike of the strata with complete indifference, and at last sweeps up into the chain of the Pentland Hills which it crosses transversely to the outcrop of the rocks. It then once more sinks into a plain and finally strikes up into the Southern Uplands.

It is evident that geological structure has here had no potent influence in the determination of the watershed. Had the rocks now visible been exposed at the surface when the watershed began to be traced, they would certainly have prevented it from ignoring them as it has done. In this, as in the other instances already discussed, we seem to be