

the lowlands of the Old Red Sandstone. A singular feature in this part of the Clyde's course is that it approaches within seven miles of the Tweed. Between the two streams, of course, lies the watershed of the country, the drainage flowing on the one side into the Atlantic, and on the other into the North Sea. Yet, instead of a ridge or hill, the space between the rivers is the broad flat valley of Biggar, so little above the level of the Clyde that it would not cost much labour to send that river across into the Tweed. Indeed, some trouble is necessary to keep the former stream from eating through the loose sandy deposits that floor the valley, and finding its way over into Tweeddale. That it once took that course, thus entering the sea at Berwick instead of at Dumbarton, is possible, and if some of the gravel mounds at Thankerton could be reunited, it might do so again.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The occurrence of salmon in the Clyde above the Falls has been explained from the relative levels of the streams in the Biggar Valley. 'It is a singular circumstance,' says Stoddart, in his *Angler's Companion for Scotland*, p. 417, 'that salmon and their fry have occasionally been taken in the upper parts of the Clyde above its loftiest fall, which, being eighty feet in height, it is utterly impossible for fish of any kind to surmount. The fact is accounted for in this way. After passing Tinto Hill, the bed of the Clyde approaches to a level with that of the Biggar Water, which is close at hand, and discharges itself into the Tweed. On the occasion of a large flood, the two streams become connected, and the Clyde actually pours a portion of its waters into one of the tributaries of the Tweed, which is accessible to, and frequented in the winter season by, salmon.' Yarrel states the highest salmon leaps to be from eight to ten feet; Stoddart supposes they may sometimes be more than twelve feet, and he says that in the Tummel the fish must leap eighteen feet, for they are caught above the falls. (But perhaps salmon ova might be carried by birds.) The Biggar flat, however, is not the only place in that neighbourhood where the watershed of the country crosses a nearly level valley. A few miles to the north, the upper waters of the Tarth and the Medwin flow along the same meadow-land, but the former stream turns eastward into the Tweed, and the latter westward into the Clyde.