

side and shelving on the east. Where the dip of the strata is to the west, and therefore their escarpment to the east, the crag looks eastward, of which there is an instance in Corstorphine Hill.¹

Where a sheet of diabase or other eruptive rock lies upon a series of flat or gently-inclined beds, it forms a cake or capping that has protected the softer strata underneath. In the West Lomond of Fife, for example, the stratified deposits rise almost horizontally to a height of 900 feet above the vale of Eden, their bared edges being cut away into a steep declivity. Over them comes a thick bed of diabase, which runs as a dark precipice along the crest of

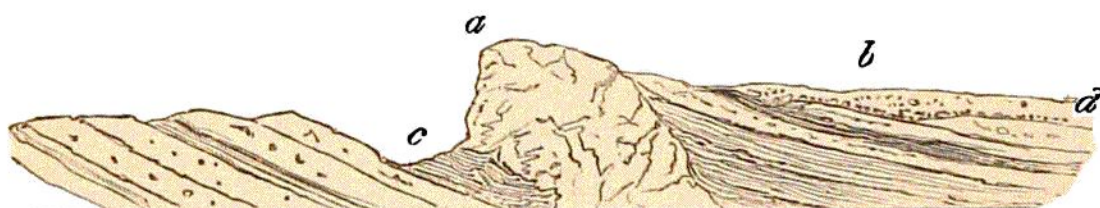


FIG. 82.—Section of the form of hill in the Lowlands of Scotland known as 'Crag and Tail.' *a*, 'Crag' of basalt or other eruptive rock. *b*, 'Tail' of softer rocks which have been worn away from around the hard igneous mass. *c*, Hollow often found in front of the crag. *d*, Covering of drift.

the slope, and supports a little patch of sandstone and limestone, on which lies the knob of diabase that forms the conical summit 1713 feet above the sea. It is plain

¹ See the original descriptions of Sir James Hall, *Trans. Roy. Soc. Edin.* vol. vii.; Maclaren, *Geol. Lothians*, pp. 52, 218. It seems to me that 'Crag and Tail' in the Midland Valley is a topographical feature due mainly to the influence of the geological structure of the rocks upon their denudation, though probably modified to some extent by the various agents at work during the Glacial period. (See *Memoir on the Glacial Drift of Scotland*, p. 30.) I do not think that any inference as to a general denuding agency acting from a given direction can justly be drawn from 'crag and tail,' as developed in the Lowlands of Scotland. This form of ground has been compared, and even identified with the *lee seite* and *stoss seite* of Scandinavian geologists; but there is really no analogy between them, for it can be shown that in Scottish examples the crags or lee sides face the wrong way.