roots far down into the black spongy substance. The matted roots of the heath form an upper fibrous layer of peat. In the end, firs and other trees may take root upon the tract.

An old dead peat-moss, that is, one where the peat is no longer being formed, sometimes affords an excellent illustration of the fact that nothing on the surface of the land is allowed to remain unchanged. So long as the peat is growing, it can generally resist denudation, but when its growth ceases, it becomes liable to attacks from the denuding agents. This may be well observed along the flat crests of hills and in low cols, where level ground has been afforded for boggy vegetation. No longer growing, or at least not growing vigorously enough to ward off atmospheric disintegration, the peat cracks up and is dried and blown away as dust by wind or washed down by rain. It is to this cause that the singularly rugged surface, known in the south of Scotland as 'moss-hags,' is due. Deep gutters and pools are dug out of the crumbling mass by wind and rain-black, soft, and treacherous, which the inexperienced pedestrian can only pass in dry weather, and even then often like the march of the Salian priests, 'cum tripudiis sollennique saltatu?

This general desiccation and decay of the higher peatmosses may be noticed all over the Southern Uplands. The black cappings of peat which cover so many of the flat hilltops, and extend down their sides, may now be seen to be shrinking up again towards the top. They have a ragged fringe, some parts running in long tongues down the slope, or in straggling isolated patches. These features are well displayed on the high grounds above Loch Skene. The long, bare, flattened ridges have each their rough scalps of peat, of which the black, broken edges hang down the slopes of

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