

latter stream is crossed by the railway about a mile beyond Motherwell Junction. The Clyde is crossed a little below the ravines of Bothwell [352], and the railway then runs along or close to the edge of a terrace of erosion in the glacial deposits at a height of about 100 feet above the sea [369]. Below this platform lie the modern alluvial terraces of the Clyde.

## 5. WEST COAST ROUTE

### To Glasgow by Dumfries and Kilmarnock

Crossing the low, drift-covered plain referred to at p. 427, the traveller enters Scotland near **Gretna Green**, the boundary between the two countries being the River Sark. Looking to the left across the Solway Firth he sees in the distance Skiddaw, and other hills of the Lake District. To the west, in front of him, the most conspicuous eminence is Criffel, a mass of granite which, rising from the mouth of the Nith to a height of 1867 feet, forms the most easterly of the hills of Galloway. At Annan a branch line from the Caledonian Railway at Kirtlebridge Station crosses the Solway Firth for Maryport and Whitehaven, and affords at low water a good view of the wide tracts of sediment brought down by the Annan, Sark, Esk, Eden, Wampool, and Waver, and deposited in the upper reaches of the estuary. Beyond **Annan** Station the railway crosses the River Annan, which enters the Solway between mounds of gravel, raised beaches, and terraces of its own alluvium. The opener part of the Firth and the mass of Criffel are better seen as the train moves westward, until the railway turns inland towards the north-west, and skirts the Lochar Moss, the largest tract of peat in the south of Scotland [388]. The ridge on the west side of the Moss is formed of Permian breccia. Crossing the Moss, where it contracts to about a mile in width, the railway line strikes into Dumfries.

**Dumfries** is a good starting-point for Galloway (p. 452). From this halting-place the journey is pursued up Nithsdale, which, like Annandale, is an ancient depression in the Southern Uplands, floored with Permian breccia and sandstone [307]. The hills on either side are formed of Silurian rocks, and at Dumfries are nearly six miles apart, the intervening low ground being covered with Permian deposits and 'drift.'