

of ice-worn rock along its summit. This may be seen by taking the road that crosses the hill from north to south. The locality is interesting to the geologist as one of the places where Sir James Hall first observed such markings, which he attributed to vast diluvial currents. The view from the top of the hill in all directions, but especially up the Forth, is particularly noticeable.

Blackford Hill is the most northerly prolongation of the great mass of volcanic rocks of Lower Old Red Sandstone age constituting the chain of the Pentland Hills. The bottom of its southern face has been well smoothed and striated by ice moving down the hollow of the Braid Burn. An interesting walk or drive may be taken by the road across the Braid Hills. These eminences consist mainly of fine tuffs filling up what appears to have been a great volcanic vent of the time of the Lower Old Red Sandstone. From many points of the road views are obtained of the Pentlands, the Highland mountains, Edinburgh, the Firth of Forth east to the Bass Rock and North Berwick Law, and the range of the Lammermuir Hills.

Of the more distant excursions within easy reach of Edinburgh the following may be recommended:—

(1.) **North Berwick**.—A fine range of cliffs of volcanic tuffs of Lower Carboniferous age traversed with basalt dykes and cut into bays and stacks by the sea. The finest part of the coast is at and beyond Tantallon Castle. North Berwick Law [354], an old volcanic vent, presents a well glaciated front on its north side, where the protecting cover of clay and debris has been removed in the course of quarrying operations [361]. The view from the summit of this hill on a clear day is one of the most extensive in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh. The Bass Rock, probably connected with the same series of volcanic protrusions, is only about a mile and a quarter from the coast, and is best visited from Canty Bay [Fig. 81].

(2.) **Fife Coast**.—Burntisland, on the opposite shore, is an excellent locality for observing the features of volcanic necks and sheets of basalt and tuff intercalated among the Lower Carboniferous strata. The Binn, which rises boldly above the village, is the pipe of an old volcano dissected by denudation, and presenting in its crater-like chasms and basalt-dykes a remarkable resemblance to the walls of a recent crater. The coast-line eastward to Kirkcaldy exhibits an admirable