Auchterarder Stations, the railway descends into Strathearn, still keeping the bold front of the Ochils to the right hand. It crosses the Earn [346], and is then carried in a tunnel through a band of volcanic rocks, which are prolonged across the Tay into Kinnoul Hill and the line of the Sidlaws [346]. Perth may be made the centre for examining the structure and scenery of the Firth of Tay [340].

From Perth the line continues to ascend the valley of the Tay for some distance beyond Stanley Junction, until it crosses the river and strikes north-eastward along the centre of the great hollow of Strathmore [156]. The long line of heights to the right hand is the chain of the Sidlaw Hills. To the left the Highland table-land rises above the plain of Old Red Sandstone. The places of the glens of the Ericht, Isla, and Esk can be observed from the distance, but their deep cañons [352] can only be seen by being actually visited. Blairgowrie is the best centre for that purpose.

At Stonehaven the great boundary fault between the rocks of the Highlands and Lowlands is crossed [335]. Looking back out of the window on the right hand or seaward side of the carriage, the traveller will see the successive projecting headlands of vertical Old Red Conglomerate, one of them crowned with the ruins of Dunnottar Castle. Immediately beneath him, as the train dashes past the heads of narrow sea-worn gullies, he will note the gnarled and twisted schists, with their intrusive veins of pink porphyry, and, towards Aberdeen, their bosses of grey granite, until making a wide curve across the river Dee he is brought into the city of Aberdeen.

(2.) By Tay Bridge.—At present passengers are conveyed across the Forth in steamers to Burntisland. From the deck of the steamer an admirable panorama is obtained extending from Bass Rock and North Berwick Law on the east, by the Garlton Hills, Edinburgh, the Pentlands, the hills of West Lothian, to the ridges of Queensferry and the hills of Fife. The interesting volcanic heights of Burntisland are also well seen as they are approached from the south. From Burntisland the railway runs eastward and northward across the county of Fife, and affords many good views of the singularly uneven surface of that county, produced by the abundant protruding masses of igneous rocks. The Lomond Hills [357]