

and its neighborhood. And they, too, like the English precipices, are composed of a Silurian Limestone, rich in fossils. Far beneath, however, and in what at first seems an inferior position, we see rising among the trees the peculiar groups of buildings, with their tall chimneys and long armed engines, that indicate a coal-producing district, and mark on a sloping hill-side, immediately over a thick wood, a slim column of smoke ascending out of the ground, — where one of the seams beneath has been burning for years, — like the smoke of some subordinate volcano. The valley of the Girvan forms a deep and very irregular basin, composed of Silurian rocks, but occupied for several miles by a small though not unproductive patch of the Coal Measures, which abuts unconformably against the older deposits, and lies so low in the system as to be overlaid by the Mountain Limestone. The explorer, in passing downwards, should strike off to the north from the public road at the pleasant village of New Dailly, and rise on the hill-side, after crossing the stream and passing the Castle of Dalquharan, towards the older rocks, turning first, however, by the way, to visit the coal-workings immediately above the Castle, and then, a little further on, to examine, in a chance opening among the trees, the overlying fossils of the Carboniferous Limestone. He would do well, however, if desirous to economize time, and make himself sure of seeing all in the district that is worthy of being seen, to secure the services of Mr. Alexander M'Callum, the ingenious fossil collector of Girvan, under whose guidance he will learn more in a day than he could perhaps find out for himself in a week. Under the intelligent direction of Mr. M'Callum, whose services Sir Roderick Murchison has deemed worthy of special acknowledgment in his paper, I struck up from the coal-works and overlying limestone and shale, in which well known fossils, such as *Productus giganteus* and *Productus Martini*, may be detected, and reached the steep