

same deposit. It is remarkable, too, for the singular copiousness and number of its springs,—equally, I may mention, a peculiarity of the ichthyolite beds of Cromarty and Ross. Where the highway runs along the base of the tall limestone escarpment of Stronchrubie, we see that every hollow has its little stream of sparkling crystalline water, that comes leaping to the light from amid the lower strata of the precipices; and on the farm of Auchmore we find a spring — perhaps the largest in Scotland — which constantly discharges a current of four cubic feet of pure water, and goes roaring down the hill in its rocky channel, rapid and copious as the water of a mill-lade just as the miller has raised the sluice. It is really a fine object,—finer and more imposing than I had previously supposed a mere *spring* could be. It comes bursting up out of the earth, a little river, very clear, and in summer very cool, though in winter it feels warm to the hand, and during hard frosts smokes, as if heated over a fire; and rank aquatic plants of richest green, never scathed by the frosts of winter, spring up in a broad fringe along its edges.

It is with this great limestone deposit that, as I have already intimated, the marbles of Assynt are associated. Though unstratified themselves, they usually occur in the deposit as detached strata, or beds rather, more or less continuous for considerable distances. They are of various colors, each bed bearing its own, such as, of a pure white, or a white mottled with a delicate greenish yellow, or white clouded with gray, or altogether of a diffused light gray tint, or of a deep gray streaked with red; and they were wrought for ornamental purposes in two several places about thirty years ago, by a Mr. Jopling from Newcastle. “But owing principally,” say the Messrs. Anderson of Inverness, in their admirable “Guide Book,” “to the disadvantages arising from the want of roads fit for the conveyance to the coast of the weighty