

them containing about 200 cubic feet of stone. Throughout the whole valley, in short, he can hardly turn anywhere without encountering similar boulders. They have been mostly cleared off the cultivated places, and may be seen gathered into groups at the corners of the fields. They crowd the bottom of all the streamlets. The field-fences are built of them; road walls, doorposts, lintels, even entire cottages, have been made out of these widely-distributed stones. The old barons would have had but a sorry time of it had their days been spent in bringing granite boulders from a distance to mar their own fields and cumber their moors and hillsides, already barren enough by nature. They could then have enjoyed but little leisure for the pastime of killing and maiming each other. And yet all the barons of Carrick, with all their vassals and retainers to boot, working hard together for five hundred years, could not have done a thousandth part of the work.

So conspicuous a feature in the scenery of the country could not well escape notice, especially in early times, when a supernatural origin was easily found for what could not otherwise be readily explained. I have not yet been able to recover any of these traditional theories about the boulders in this part of Scotland. They still exist, however, in other districts; and, as a good sample of the class, especially in the way of showing the dry humour which enters so largely into elfin legend north of the Tweed, I may quote one which came under my own notice some time ago in Clydesdale. Not many miles above the Falls of Clyde the river makes some serpentine curves through a wide alluvial plain. One of these bends approaches the village of Carnwath, and the stream has there cut away part of a bank of soft clay and sand, on which are scattered