

as bad luck would have it, the apron-strings broke on the passage, and the hill fell with a fearful plunge into the Firth, where it still remains, under the name of Ailsa Craig. The only original account of the boulders of the Girvan valley which has come under my notice was that of a mason, who, when asked his idea of the endless blocks of granite that dot the fields and hillsides like flocks of sheep, gravely remarked that "when the Almichtie flang the warld out, He maun ha'e putten thae stanes upon her to keep her steady."

Supernatural agency failing us, we come back again to the question, Whence came the Baron's Stone of Killochan and all its kindred boulders? There is, as every tourist knows, a great mass of granite in Arran. It rises into the noble cone of Goatfell, and forms the chains of jagged peaks that overshadow the defiles of Glen Rosa and Glen Sannox. But this granite is not the same as that of the Carrick boulders. It differs in texture, partly also in composition, and in certain mineralogical peculiarities which need not be specified here. There can, indeed, be no doubt whatever that the boulders did not come from Arran. Where, then, is their source to be sought? Let us in imagination make our way up the valley of the Girvan, and note as we go such changes of scenery and rock as may chance to throw light on the matter. The lower or seaward portion of the river's course runs along the northern base of a tolerably steep line of hills, rising, as I have said, to heights of over a thousand feet, and sweeping away southward and eastward into the wild mountainous uplands of Carrick and Galloway. After skirting these hills for about sixteen miles, among woodlands and pleasure-grounds, and past the remains of ancient strongholds, the course of the stream bends round at nearly a right angle