

spot where it still remains. Many a shifting scene has come over the face of the country since then. The ice-fields have disappeared, and with them the hairy elephants and woolly rhinoceroses, reindeer and elks, which then roamed over the land ; forests have sprung up and departed ; the river has worn its way through cliffs of solid stone, and has rolled out many a fair meadow : but there still stands the granite boulder—a silent memorial of the long-vanished ice age.

But the Baron's Stone has another history, and from this it takes its name. The granite boulders of Carrick have served as an inexhaustible quarry from the earliest times. They may be seen forming a part of the ramparts of the hill forts of the early British tribes. Set upright, they sometimes have served as rough unchiselled monumental stones. A rude carving may, indeed, be traced on some of these monoliths. Thus, on the eastern flanks of the Brown Carrick Hill, a few miles south of the town of Ayr, lies an oblong block of gray granite weighing about two tons. It has evidently at one time been upright, and on the original face, which forms now the upper surface of the stone, a rude cross has been carved, having the same outline as the common monumental crosses of the West Highlands. That the stone served as a memorial of the dead can hardly be doubted. So simple an explanation, however, suited not the marvel-loving fancy of the old Carrick men. Abercrummie, the episcopal curate of Maybole, who was "outed" on the re-establishment of Presbyterianism, wrote a "Description of Carrick" about the close of the seventeenth century ; and, in alluding to this sculptured stone, he calls it "a big whinstone, upon which there is the dull figure of a Crosse ; which is alledged to have been done by some venerable churchman, who did mediat a peace twixt the King of the