

has probably deprived us of a record of the waste of these shores within the historical period. Knowing the actual force of the waves, and seeing how much they can effect in a stormy winter, we cannot doubt that during the last few hundred years there must have been more or less loss of land, even along that iron-bound coast.

In the Kyles of Bute, a tract of low land to the north of Kames Bay has been so encroached upon by the tides that a road which skirted the beach had been thrice removed farther inland during the thirty or forty years that preceded 1864.¹ Along the shores of the estuary of the Clyde, the sea has in some places removed a considerable part of the coast-line even within recent times. To the south of the town of Ayr, a cliff of volcanic tuff rises vertically from the beach, bearing on its verge the picturesque ruin of Greenan Castle. The walls overhang the precipice, and the sea is hollowing out the rock below. Yet within the recollection of a venerable lady who died some years ago, there was room for a horse and cart to pass between the castle and the edge of the cliff. During the last hundred years, therefore, a slice of solid rock, perhaps six or eight feet broad, has been cut away from this part of the coast. A short distance farther south, a spring in the middle of a field, a few feet above high-water mark, was enclosed as a well some eighty or ninety years ago. Since then that part of the field which lay between the well and the sea has been eaten away, and the spring now rises at the edge of the shingle of the beach.²

The shores of Loch Ryan, which seem so well sheltered alike from the Atlantic and the Irish Sea, have suffered considerably within the last two or three generations. Mr.

¹ My much esteemed friend the late Rev. Alexander Macbride, of Ardmory, Bute, pointed this fact out to me in 1864.

² These facts were communicated to me by the late Dr. Sloan, of Ayr.