

rise more steeply, until the river leaps over the linn at Bonnington into the long, narrow, and deep gorge in which the well-known Falls are contained. That this defile has not been rent open by the concussion of an earthquake, but is really the work of sub-aërial denudation, may be ascertained by tracing the unbroken beds of Lower Old Red Sandstone from side to side (Fig. 79). Indeed, one could not choose a better place in which to study the process of waste, for he can examine the effects of rains, springs, and frosts, in loosening the sandstone by means of the hundreds of joints that traverse the face of the long cliffs, and he can likewise follow in all their detail the results of the constant wear and tear of the brown river that keeps ever tumbling and foaming down the ravine.

A little below the town of Lanark, the Mouse Water enters the Clyde through the dark narrow chasm beneath the Cartland Crag. There, too, though

‘ It seems some mountain rent and riven
A channel for the stream has given,’

yet it is the stream itself that has done the work. Nay, it would even appear that this singularly deep gorge has been cut out since the end of the Age of Ice, for there is an old channel close to it, filled up with drift, but through which the stream has evidently at one time flowed.¹

Running still in a narrow valley, the Clyde, after receiving the Mouse Water, hurries westward to throw itself over the last of its linns at Stonebyres, and to toil in a long dark gorge until, as it leaves the Old Red Sandstone, its valley gradually opens out, and it then enters the great Lanarkshire coal-field. From the top of the highest Fall to the foot of the lowest is a distance of rather more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles, in

¹ Glacial or pre-glacial river-channels have been discovered below the boulder-clay in many parts of Scotland.