

In dry seasons the channel of the stream which descends from Great Colne and Gragreth to Leck and Over-burrow to join the Lune, is a wild hollow of stones; in wet seasons these are rolled along by a powerful torrent. In ascending the stream we find not only its actual banks, but considerable hills on its sides to be composed of similar materials, drifted together by some earlier forces of water. Farther upward these pebble-banks give place to the native slaty rock, which has been their prolific parent, and the little stream winds, falls, and rushes through these rocks with a great variety of beautiful and intricate scenery. On a small scale it is indeed admirable, especially when the beck is reduced by long-continued drought to the few pure and perpetual feeders which are its proper source. The water is then of a clear and beautiful green, and is collected in little fairy pools, or pouring in tiny cascades over the blue slaty rocks which it has sculptured and perforated in a thousand ways. Hazel, holly, ivy, mountain ash, and a hundred other humbler plants, combine with the heathy ground and the lichen-grey rocks into minutely beautiful pictures.

Still farther up the valley the limestone dips into the stream and gives occasion to entirely different and equally curious scenes.

The channel divides into several small branches; one which bears the most water being otherwise the least marked. Another, through which in dry weather hardly a rill is seen—yet even in that state is almost impassable on account of its deep pools, shut in by steep precipices—becomes in a rainy season a wild chaos of tempestuous water. This is Easgill, one of the most singular little glens to be anywhere found. For several hundred yards along its course through the Scar limestone, this rock is wasted and perforated by the elements into a great variety of fantastic shapes.

The interior is wasted as much as the surface, and a great number of caves are formed by the action of water on the great interior fissures, which mostly range N.W. and S.E., as in In-