

the remote ages of primæval life, with other and widely-distant regions of the globe. I have said, that the limestone cliffs of this deposit are singularly picturesque. At one point we find them traversed by a broad dyke of compact greenstone, which has been followed by the quarrier into the very bowels of the hill; and so, for several hundred feet together, we can see the yawning rent in the earth's surface which it had so lately filled, with its corresponding angles and its answering protuberances and inflections, existing as it must have existed when first torn asunder by the convulsion to which it owed its origin, and ere the molten matter had come boiling through it from the abyss. It is a wild recess, tapestried by mosses and overhung by brushwood; and, from where it opens into the richly fossiliferous rock, in which lie entombed by millions the organisms of perhaps the earliest creation, the eye glances adown a noble valley, bosky with green woods, and checkered with smiling fields, and marks, where it opens to the broad Atlantic, a busy sea-port town, or rests far beyond on the dim cloud-like Ailsa. When I last stood in its opening, at the close of a long summer's day delightfully spent, the broad sun, then resting on the far horizon, was casting its last red gleam on bush, and crag, and brown hill-top, and the deep slant shadows of evening lay stretched along the bottom of the valley. And then, as the light declined, the moon, in her first quarter, began to show her slender form through the dappled cloudlets, like a silver scimitar, and I saw her brightening image as I passed, reflected on the stiller pools of the Girvan. How widely different must not the scene have been when those organisms of the rock lived at the bottom of their old Palæozoic ocean, and the light of that sun and moon, — mayhap the only unchanged objects on which the eye rested, — was caught by the many-sided eyes of the trilobite, or guided the carnivorous orthoceratite to its prey! Let me indulge for a brief space, ere I conclude, in an