

cient forest-covered Silurians of central England, and anon opening to the light on some hill-side among the Mountain Limestones of our own country,—I have felt how very much I owed to his instructions.

His facts wanted a vocabulary adequately fitted to represent them; but though they “lacked a commodity of good names,” they were all founded on careful observation, and possessed that first element of respectability,—perfect originality. They were all acquired by himself. I owed more, however, to the habit of observation which he assisted me in forming, than even to his facts themselves; and yet some of these were of high value. He has shown me, for instance, that an immense granitic boulder in the neighborhood of the town, known for ages as the Clach Malloch, or Cursed Stone, stands so exactly in the line of low water, that the larger stream-tides of March and September lay dry its inner side, but never its outer one;—round the outer side there are always from two to four inches of water; and such had been the case for at least a hundred years before, in his father’s and grandfather’s days,—evidence enough of itself, I have heard him say, that the relative levels of sea and land were not altering; though during the lapsed century the waves had so largely encroached on the low flat shores, that elderly men of his acquaintance, long since passed away, had actually held the plough when young where they had held the rudder when old. He used, too, to point out to me the effect of certain winds upon the tides. A strong hasty gale from the east, if coincident with a spring-tide, sent up the waves high upon the beach, and cut away whole roods of the soil; but the gales that usually kept the larger tides from falling during ebb were prolonged gales from the west. A series of these, even when not very high, left not unfrequently from one to two feet water round the Clach Malloch, during stream-tides, that would otherwise have laid its bottom bare; a proof, he used to say, that the German Ocean, from its want of breadth, could not be heaped up against our coasts to the same extent, by the violence of a very powerful