

isting names (French and Saxon in their derivation), not yet begun to be. Ere we reached the solitary inn of Auchenasheen,—a true Highland clachan of the ancient type,—the night had fallen dark and stormy for a night in June; and a gray mist which had been descending for hours along the hills,—blotting off their brown summits bit by bit, as an artist might his pencilled hills with a piece of India rubber, but which, methodical in its encroachments, had preserved in its advances a perfect horizontality of line,—had broken into a heavy, continuous rain. As, however, the fair weather had lasted us till we were within a mile of our journey's end, we were only partially wet on our arrival, and soon succeeded in drying ourselves in front of a noble turf fire. My comrade would fain have solaced himself, after our weary journey, with something nice. He held that a Highland inn should be able to furnish at least a bit of mutton-ham or a cut of dried salmon, and ordered a few slices, first of ham, and then of salmon; but his orders served merely to perplex the landlord and his wife, whose stores seemed to consist of only oatmeal and whisky; and, coming down in his expectations and demands, and intimating that he was very hungry, and that anything edible would do, we heard the landlady inform, with evident satisfaction, a red-armed wench, dressed in blue plaiding, that “the lads would take porridge.” The porridge was accordingly prepared; and when engaged in discussing this familiar viand, a little before midnight,—for we had arrived late,—a tall Highlander entered the inn, dropping like a mill-wheel. He was charged, he said, with messages to the landlord, and to two mason lads in the inn, from a forlorn carter with whom he had travelled about twenty miles, but who, knocked up by the “drap drink” and a pair of bad shoes, had been compelled to shelter for the night in a cottage about seven miles short of Auchenasheen. The carter's message to the landlord was simply to the effect that, the two mason lads having stolen his horse and cart, he unstructed him to detain his property for him, until he himself should come up in the morning. As for his message to the