

## CHAPTER XIII.

“A man of glee,  
With hair of glittering gray,  
As blythe a man as you could see  
On a spring holiday.”

WORDSWORTH.

THERE existed at this time no geological map of Scotland. Macculloch's did not appear until about six or seven years after (in 1829 or in 1830), and Sedgwick and Murchison's interesting sketch of the northern formations\* not until at least five years after (1828). And so, on setting out on the morning after that of my arrival, to provide stones for our future erection, I found myself in a *terra incognita*, new to the quarrier, and unknown to the geologist. Most of the stratified primary rocks make but indifferent building materials; and in the immediate neighborhood of our work I could find only one of the worst of the class,—the schistose gneiss. On consulting, however, the scenery of the district, I marked that at a certain point both shores of the open sea-loch on whose margin we were situated, suddenly changed their character. The abrupt

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\* Appended to their joint paper on the “Deposits contained between the Scottish Primary Rocks and Oolitic Series,” and interesting, as the first published geological map of Scotland to the north of the Friths of Forth and Clyde.