

from the town, and afforded me many a pleasant evening's excursion to the deep-sea caves and skerries; and the picturesque surf-wasted stacks of the granitic wall of rock which runs in the Ben Nevis line of elevation, from Shadwick on the east to the Scarfs Crag on the west. I know not a richer tract for the geologist. Independently of the interest that attaches to its sorely-contorted granitic gneiss,—which seems, as Murchison shrewdly remarks, to have been protruded through the sedimentary deposits in a solid state, as a fractured bone is sometimes protruded through the integuments,—there occurs along the range three several deposits of the Old Red Ichthyolites, and three several deposits of the Lias, besides the subaqueous ones, with two insulated skerries, which I am inclined to regard as outliers of the Oolite. These last occur in the form of half-tide rocks, very dangerous to the mariner, which lie a full half-mile from the shore, and can be visited with safety only at low-water during dead calms, when no ground-swell comes rolling in from the sea. I have set out as early as two o'clock in a fine summer morning for these skerries, and, after spending several hours upon them, have been seated at the bank desk before ten; but these were mornings of very hard work. It was the long Saturday afternoons that were my favorite seasons of exploration; and when the weather was fine, my wife would often accompany me in these excursions; and we not unfrequently anchored our skiff in some rocky bay, or over some fishing bank, and, provided with rods and lines, caught, ere our return, a basket of rock-cod or coal-fish for supper, that always seemed to eat better than the fish supplied us in the market. These were happy holidays. Shelley predicates of a day of exquisite beauty, that it would continue to "live like joy in memory." I do retain recollections of these evenings spent in my little skiff,—recollections mingled with a well remembered imagery of blue seas and purple hills, and a sun lit. town in the distance, and tall wood-crested precipices nearer at hand, which flung lengthening shadows across shore and sea,—that not merely represent enjoyments which have been, but that, in certain moods of the mind, take the form of enjoyment still.