

in some cases the sorely rusted axe itself has been found sticking in the buried tree. Among the tangled débris of a prostrated forest the woodman frequently mislays his tools, —a mishap to which the old Romans seem to have been as subject as the men of a later time; and so the list of Roman utensils, coins, and arms, found in the mosses of the south and midland parts of Scotland, is in consequence a long one. ‘In Possil Moss, near Glasgow,’ says Rennie, in his *Essay on Peat Moss*, ‘a leathern bag containing about two hundred silver coins of Rome was found; in Dundaff Moor a number of similar coins were found; in Annan Moss, near the Roman Causeway, a Roman ornament of pure gold was found; a Roman camp-kettle was found eight feet deep under a moss on the estate of Ochertyre; in Flanders Moss a similar utensil was found; a Roman jug was found in Lochar Moss, Dumfriesshire; a pot and decanter of Roman copper was found in a moss in Kirk-michael parish, in the same county; and two pair of vessels of Roman bronze in the Moss of Glenderhill, in Strathaven.’ And thus the list runs on. It is not difficult to conceive how, in the circumstances, mosses come to be formed. The Roman soldiers cut down, in their march, wide avenues in the forests through which they passed. The felled wood was left to rot on the surface; small streams were choked up in the levels; pools formed in the hollows; the soil beneath, shut up from the light and the air, became unfitted to produce its former vegetation; but a new order of plants, the thick water-mosses, began to spring up; one generation budded and decayed over the ruins of another; and what had been an overturned forest became in the course of years a deep morass,—an unsightly but permanent monument of the formidable invader.

Some of our other Scotch mosses seem to have owed their origin to violent hurricanes;—their under tier of trunks, either torn up by the roots or broken across, lie all one way.