

children of the place, and are known among them as the giants' graves. They lie against the green bank, each from forty to sixty yards in length, and from six to ten yards in height, with their feet to the shore, and their heads on the top of the escarpment; and when the evening sun falls low, and the shadows lengthen, they form, from their alternate bars of light and shade, that remind one of the ebon and ivory buttresses of the poet, a singularly pleasing feature in the landscape. I have sometimes wished I could fix their features in a calotype, for the special benefit of my friends the landscape painters. This vignette, I would fain say, represents the boulder-clay after its precipitous banks—worn down, by the frosts and rains of centuries, into parallel runnels, that gradually widened into these hollow grooves—had sunk into the angle of inclination at which the disintegrating agents ceased to operate, and the green sward covered all up. You must be studying these peculiarities of aspect more than ever you studied them before. There is a time coming when the connoisseur will as rigidly demand the specific character of the various geologic deposits in your rocks and *scaurs*, as he now demands specific character in your shrubs and trees.

I have said that the boulder-clay exhibits certain unique appearances, which connect its origin in the several localities with one set of causes, and which no other deposit presents. On examining the boulders which it encloses, we find them strongly scarred and scratched. In most instances, too, the rock on which the clay rests,—if it be a trap, or a limestone, or a finely-grained sandstone, or, in short, any rock on which a tool could act, and of a texture fitted to retain the mark of the tool,—we find similarly scarred, grooved, and scratched. In this part of the country the boulder-clay contains scarce any fossils, save fragments of the older organisms derived from the rocks beneath; but in both the north and south of Scotland,—in