

undressed stone, generally regarded as Danish, which, though more ancient than authentic history, or even tradition, in the district, was less so than the old coast line, as it had been evidently erected, subsequent to the last change of level, on the flat marginal strip which intervenes between the old line and the sea. It rose in the middle of a swampy hollow, which protracted rains sometimes converted into a strip of water, and which was sometimes swept by the overflowings of the neighbouring river. On the eve of the incident which proved the terminating one in its history, the hollow, previously filled with rain-water, had been frozen to the bottom by a continued frost, which was, however, on the eve of breaking up ; and a dense fog lay thick in the valley, when a benighted Highlander, returning tipsy from a market by the light of the moon, came staggering in the direction of the standing stone, and in a drunken frolic set his bonnet on the top of it ; and then, wandering off into the mist, he lost sight of both stone and bonnet, and, failing to regain them, he had to return bareheaded to his home. The thaw came on ; the river rose over its banks ; the ice-cake around the obelisk floated high above the level, wrenching up the obelisk along with it, as the ice of the St. Lawrence wrenched up the stakes described by Sir Charles Lyell ; and both ice-cake and obelisk floated down the loch to the sea. As the morning broke,—a fierce morning of flood and tempest,—they were seen passing what some forty years ago was known as the Little Ferry ; and the alarm went abroad along the shores on both sides, that there was a *man* standing in the middle of the Loch on the floating ice, and in course of being swept out to the ocean. Poor man ! he had been crossing the river, it was inferred, when the ice broke up ; and though the enterprise was a somewhat perilous one, for the ice fragments were rushing furiously along on the wild tides of the loch, maddened by the inundation, a boat, double manned, shot out from the shore to the rescue,