

partially-broken bed of greenstone porphyry known as the Bay Crag ; next, the continuous bed of compact greenstone known as the Hill Crag,—that along the top of which the path ascends to the summit of Arthur Seat from St. Anthony's Well ; and then there are at least two beds of basalt, partially sanded over, which rise in interrupted steps along the face of the eastern hill. These beds form the peculiar feature of the fine fragment of landscape which from this point of view the Arthur Seat group of hills composes.¹ The trap scenery may be described generally as eminently picturesque. From the circumstance that its eruptive masses rise often from amid level fields, and that its hard abrupt beds, dikes, and columns, alternate often with rich, soft strata, that decompose into fertile soils, it abounds in striking contrasts. The soft plain ascends often at one stride into a hill fantastically rugged and abrupt ; and bare and fractured precipices overtop terraced slopes or level platforms, rich in verdure. Some of the more famed scenery of England owes its peculiar beauty to the trap rocks. Hagley, the seat of the Lytteltons, so celebrated in the English poetry of the last century for its beauty, is situated half on a range of picturesque trap hills, half on a level plain of the New Red Sandstone ; and the far-famed view from the Leasowes owes much of its beauty to the traps of the Clent Hills. But it would be unpardonable, in treating, however slightly, of the scenery of the trap, to omit all reference to one of its strangest features,—those ranges of polygonal columns which, in at least the more perfect specimens, are peculiar to it, and which impart to Dame Nature, in so many instances, those qualities of proportion and regularity in which art can alone

¹ On the west coast of Mull, and the islands of Gometra and Ulva six or eight of these step-like beds may be seen, rising the one over the other, like terraces or storeys in a building ; and the whole landscape seems barred with right lines, that in this district lie nearly parallel to the horizon.