

surrounded by irreducible shapes that would take no place in his systems, might well deem himself in a wild dream, were the forests of the Coal Measures.

The Coal Measures of Scotland occupy about two thousand square miles of surface, and, though much overflowed by igneous rock, and occasionally broken through by patches of Old Red Sandstone, run diagonally across the country, from sea to sea, in a tolerably well-defined belt, nearly parallel to the line of the southern flank of the Grampians. Throughout their entire extent they owe their scenic peculiarities to the trap ; but where least disturbed, as in the Dalkeith coal-field, they are of an inconspicuous, low-featured character, and chiefly remarkable for their rich fields, as to the east of Edinburgh, between the Arthur Seat group of hills and the Garleton hills near Haddington ; or for their romantic dells and soft pastoral valleys, such as Dryden Dell, or the valley of Lasswade, or to enumerate two other well-known representative localities in one stanza, borrowed from Macneil,

‘ Roslin’s gowany braes sae bonny,
Craggs and water, woods and glen ;
Roslin’s banks, unpeer’d by ony,
Save the Muse’s, Hawthornden.’

The coal-fields owe some of their more characteristic features, especially in the sister kingdom, to man. The tall chimneys, ever belching out smoke ; the thickly-sown engine-houses, with the ever-recurring clank of the engines, and the slow-measured motion of their outstretched arms seen far against the sky ; the involved fretwork of railways, connected with some main arterial branch, along which the traveller ever and anon marks the frequent train sweeping by, laden with coals for the distant city ; the long flat lines of low cottages, the homes of the poor colliers ; and here and there, where the ironstone bands occur, a group of smelting furnaces ;—all serve to mark the Coal Measures, and to distinguish them