

cula, which had been worn as ornaments, in tumuli of the ancient Britons. And you will remember that in *Marmion*, the nuns of St. Hilda, who lived in a Liassic country rich in Ammonites, had their stories regarding the snakes which their sainted patroness had changed into stone; and that they were curious to know, in turn, from the nuns of Lindisfarne, who lived in a Carboniferous district, rich in encrinurites, the true story of the beads of St. Cuthbert:

‘ But fain St. Hilda’s nuns would learn,
 If on a rock by Lindisfarne
 St. Cuthbert sits, and toils to frame
 The sea-born beads that bear his name.
 Such tales had Whitby’s fishers told,
 And said they might his shape behold,
 And hear his anvil sound.
 A deadened clang, a huge dim form,
 Seen but and heard, when gathering storm
 And night were closing round.’

Certainly, if he fabricated all the beads, he must have been one of the busiest saints in the Calendar. So amazingly abundant were the lily encrinurites of the Carboniferous period, that there are rocks in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, of considerable thickness and great lateral extent, composed almost exclusively of their remains.

The depth of the Carboniferous system has been well described as enormous. Including the Mountain Limestone, which is a marine deposit of the same period, and which must be regarded as forming a member of the Coal Measures, there are districts of England in which, as estimated by Mantell, it has attained to the vast thickness of ten thousand feet. In our own immediate neighbourhood it does not, as estimated by a high authority, Mr. Charles M’Laren, quite equal half that depth. Our Carboniferous system, including the Roslin and Calciferous sandstones, he describes, in his *Geology of Fife and the Lothians*, as about four thousand five hundred feet in thickness,—a thickness, however, which