

With boughs that quaked with every breath ;
 Grey birch and aspen wept beneath ;
 Aloft the ash and warrior oak
 Cast anchor in the rifted rock ;
 And higher yet the pine-tree hung
 His shattered trunk, and frequent flung,
 Where seemed the cliffs to meet on high,
 His boughs athwart the narrow sky.'

Here is there a description of the characteristic vegetation of our richer mica-schist valleys, not more remarkable for its poetic luxuriance than for its strict truth,—truth so strict and literal, that I question whether even the hyper-critic, who looked for but a typical catalogue, could enumerate more than two forms of vegetation prevalent in such districts which it does not include. The *ferns* grow at once singularly rank and delicate in the shade, amid the bosky recesses of the mica-schist ; and every damper recess of the rock we find thickly tapestried over by the *mosses* and the *liverworts*.

Passing southwards along the dark surface of Loch Lomond, skirted for rather more than two-thirds of its length by these hills of mica-schist, which confer on its upper reaches a character of mingled picturesqueness and sublimity, we enter, nearly opposite the pastoral village of Luss, on a band of clay-slate,—the last or most modern of the primary formations. It is of no great breadth,—some three or four miles at most ; but it runs diagonally across the entire kingdom, from the western shores of Bute, where it disappears under the outer waters of the Firth of Clyde, to near Stonehaven, where we lose it in the German Ocean. We find it associated with a softer style of scenery than the mica-schist. Lacking the multitudinous contortions, and consequent knobs and protuberances, of the schist, it is less picturesque, though scarce less beautiful ; nor is its beauty devoid of an ennobling mixture of the sublime. The gracefully-contoured hills that rise immediately behind Luss,