

the soda or potash being chiefly derived from the felspathic ingredients of the various formations, and therefore the waters are soft. For this reason, at a vast expense, Glasgow has been supplied with water from Loch Katrine, which, lying amid the gneissic rocks, is, like almost all other waters from our oldest formations, soft, pure, and delightful. The same is the case with the waters that run from the Silurian rocks of the Lammermuir Hills; and the only fault that can be found with all of these waters, excepting by anglers in times of flood, is that they are apt to be a little flavoured and tinged by colouring matter derived from peat.

The water of the rivers drained from the Silurian Cumberland mountains is also soft, and so little of the waters of that country rises in the lower plateaux of Carboniferous Limestone that it scarcely affects their quality.

The water from the Welsh mountains is also in great part soft, the country being formed of Silurian rocks, here and there slightly calcareous, from the presence of fossils mixed with the hardened sandy or slaty sediment, that forms the larger part of that country. So sweet and pleasant are the waters of Bala Lake, compared with the impure mixtures we sometimes drink in London, that it has been more than once proposed to lead it all the way for the supply of water for the capital; and the same proposition has been made with regard to the waters of Plinlimmon¹ and the adjacent mountains of Cardiganshire. But when in Wales, and on its borders, we come to the Old Red Sandstone district, the marls are somewhat calcareous, and interstratified with impure concretionary limestones,

¹ Properly Plymlumon.