

neighbouring firth ; some, however, and these often the most abundant, have long since died out in the British seas, though they still flourish in the waters of the Arctic Ocean. They are naturally adapted to a cold climate ; and their abundance in the old sea-bottoms of the glacial period that occur on the west coast, affords a curious corroboration of the testimony of the boulders that the climate of the British Islands was once as severe as that of modern Greenland.

So here at last is the history of the origin of the Baron's Stone of Killochan. It once formed part of a cliff, some 2000 feet over its present site, far away up among the lonely mountains that look down upon Loch Doon. And, when it occupied its place in that cliff, the mountains around were cased deep in snow, and the glens were clogged with thick masses of ice which, with block-covered surface, moved steadily seaward. The granite cliff, like its representatives at the present day, traversed in all directions with joints and fissures, was liable to be split up into large angular blocks. One of these masses, weighing at least thirty-seven tons, was loosened one day from its resting-place and rolled down among the ruin of boulders that lay heaped upon the glacier below. With the ice in its steady seaward progress, this granite boulder moved mile after mile over ice-buried hill and glen ; receiving, doubtless, many a dint from brother blocks hurried from their long silence in the cliffs to join the rattle of the ice-borne heaps beneath. Whether the transport was entirely done by the sheet of moving land-ice, or whether the last part of the journey was performed upon a detached berg floating off into the sea, may be matter of debate. But this at least is certain, that, after travelling some eighteen miles from its source, the boulder was finally stranded on or near the