

Picts and Scots ; and to give the more authority to his proposall did in their sight, by laying a crosse upon the stone, imprint that figure thereon." Another legend represents the cross as the impression of Sir William Wallace's sword, which, having been laid on the stone at nightfall, left its mould in the hard granite ere morning. A third version of the story relates how Wallace fought single-handed against a host of Englishmen, and how his sword, happening to strike against the stone, cut its likeness thereon by the blow !

The barons of Carrick found the boulders too hard to be dressed for the walls of their castles ; but they used them with great effect to form the foundations, as in the stately castle of Dalquharran, on the banks of the Girvan. In recent times, as already said, they have been built into stone fences, cut into gateposts, and squared into blocks, of which tombstones and obelisks have been made.

The Baron's Stone of Killochan, however, does not seem ever to have had a tool upon it, until, some years ago, the proprietor had its name carved on its side to mark it as sacred from the hands of the relentless farmer. Tradition tells that it served as the judgment-seat of the old barons of Killochan, where they mustered their men, planned their raids, shared the booty, and hanged or cut off the heads of refractory prisoners. The family name is Cathcart, and the property still remains in their hands. They are said to trace their genealogy back to the days of the Bruce, a charter from whom still exists among the family archives. Though overshadowed by the power and influence of the Kennedies, the Cathcarts played their part in the troublous history of Carrick. Three brothers, including the Laird himself, died on the field of Flodden. Alan, third Lord Cathcart, fell at Pinkie. The son of the Flodden hero con-