

such an animated description of the Girvan strata, at the meeting of the British Association at Edinburgh in 1850, that Murchison (with his friend James Nicol), hastened away to investigate the ground. The results appeared in a memoir on the 'Silurian Rocks of the South of Scotland,' a work 'characterised throughout by all Murchison's keen geological insight, comprehensive grasp of detail, and brilliancy of generalisation.'<sup>1</sup>

James Nicol (1810-79), to whom reference has already been made (p. 167), had been a pupil of Jameson. After holding a geological professorship for four years at Cork, he was appointed in 1853 to the chair of Civil and Natural History in Marischal College, Aberdeen. Meanwhile he had, in 1844, published an excellent 'Guide to the Geology of Scotland.'<sup>2</sup> His heart, indeed, was ever in his native country, and during the years 1848-54 he made observations on the Lower Palæozoic rocks of the Southern Uplands.

Other workers were attracted to this district, as well as to the Palæozoic regions of the Lake District. One of these was Robert Harkness (1816-78), a Lancashire man, who was educated at Dumfries and at Edinburgh University. In 1853 he succeeded James Nicol in the chair of Geology at Queen's College, Cork, and worked at Irish geology in expeditions made to Dingle, to Connemara, and the Giant's Causeway. He devoted some attention to the schistose rocks of the Scottish Highlands, but became particularly interested in the New Red rocks of Dumfries and the Vale of Eden, and likewise in the older rocks of the Southern Uplands and of Cumberland and Westmorland. Of him Sir A. Geikie wrote: 'Who that has been privileged with his friendship will not cherish the memory of his earnestness over even the driest of details, his quiet enthusiasm, his generous admiration of the work of others, his unflinching cheerfulness? Who will forget that beaming ruddy face.

<sup>1</sup> Lapworth, *Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.* xxxviii. 1882, p. 547.

<sup>2</sup> It must not be forgotten that Ami Boué wrote the first 'Essai géologique sur l'Ecosse,' 1829.