

OBSERVATIONS
ON A
TOUR
THROUGH
THE HIGHLANDS
AND PART OF THE
WESTERN ISLES
OF
SCOTLAND;

PARTICULARLY
STAFFA AND ICOLMKILL:
TO WHICH ARE ADDED,
A DESCRIPTION OF THE FALLS OF THE CLYDE;
OF THE COUNTRY ROUND MOFFAT,
AND AN
ANALYSIS OF ITS MINERAL WATERS.

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OF LONDON; THE ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY; AND PROFESSOR OF NATURAL
PHILOSOPHY AND CHEMISTRY IN THE ROYAL
INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN.

A NEW EDITION.

ILLUSTRATED BY A MAP,

And Fifty-two Plates, engraved in the Manner of Aquatinta, from Drawings taken on
the spot by W. H. WATTS, Miniature and Landscape Painter,
who accompanied the Author in his Tour.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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P R E F A C E.

It will, perhaps, appear highly presuming in me, to intrude on the world another Tour through the Highlands, after the number that have been already published. But though we have several well-written journals, I know of none whose object is so extensive as mine, excepting the excellent Tour by Mr. PENNANT, a work which will always be read with interest, and remain a monument of the talents and industry of its author. I took the journal of this eminent writer with me, and compared his description with the objects themselves, which, as far as they went, were remarkably accurate; but I soon found that considerable employment was left for a gleaner.

THESE volumes contain a description of the country, manners and customs of the inhabitants, natural curiosities, antiquities, mineralogy, botany, natural advantages, proposed improvements, and an account of the state of manufactures, agriculture, fisheries, and political economy, with local history and biography. My object has been to give as perfect an account

as possible of every place and every thing I saw: to effect which, I have not ventured to rely entirely on my own observation, but have freely levied contributions on my predecessors; not, however, without acknowledging my obligations to them.

AMONG other works, I am particularly indebted to Sir JOHN SINCLAIR'S Statistical Account of Scotland, which is undoubtedly the best local history that ever has appeared in any country: it will be an invaluable treasure to posterity, and reflects the highest credit on the ministers who drew up the accounts of the different parishes. As persons resident on the spot must be acquainted with many particulars which will escape the traveller or occasional visitor, I have been enabled, by consulting this valuable work, to make my accounts much more perfect. In short, I trust, that from all these sources united, I have been able to give a more full and correct account of the districts through which I passed, than has been done before in a work of this kind.

THIS work is, I hope, adapted to serve as a guide to those who visit the Hebrides, or who make what is called the long tour of the Highlands by Fort William, Fort Augustus, and Inverness; or to those who make only the short tour by Inverary, Dalmary, Dunkeld, and Stirling; or to those who only visit Loch Lomond and the Falls of the Clyde. The only part not described, is the stage in the short tour between Dalmary and Killin.

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THE reader will find several philosophical notes, which he may, perhaps, think had better have been omitted; but I was induced by the example of Dr. DARWIN to hope, that by this mean some readers might be allured from the straight path of the tour, to take a glance at the secret operations of Nature, and that the slight taste which they would thus have of her dainties, might give them a relish for a more sumptuous repast. It is only to the general reader that they are addressed; the philosopher will find scarcely any thing new in them; and those who have an absolute dislike to all philosophical investigations, may pass them over. I have generally thrown the natural history as well as the biography, into the form of notes, that they might not terrify or impede the progress of the light reader, but be in readiness to satisfy the curiosity of the inquirer.

SHOULD it be asked why I have inserted many historical facts, such as the massacre of Glencoe, Gowrie's conspiracy, &c. by way of episodical digressions; I can only say, that though these facts stand recorded in history, I have thought proper to insert them, because it makes the place infinitely more interesting to the traveller to have an account of every remarkable circumstance relating to it before his eye: besides, many persons visit these scenes who are not well versed in history, or who may not recollect what is connected with the places they examine.

I EXPECT that what I have said of the wretched situation of the inhabitants in the Highlands, will give offence to some per-

sons, and particularly to those who have it in their power to ameliorate their condition; but I was actuated only by a desire to increase the comforts, and remove the distresses of the natives. I have in no instance, knowingly, lost sight of truth; it has been my wish and endeavour to

—————“Speak of them as they are,
Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice.”

I CANNOT let slip an opportunity of paying a slight tribute to the Companion of my tour, whose lively disposition, civility, and good nature, contributed not a little to the pleasure I received, and the productions of whose pencil form so valuable a part of this work.

THIS work was composed at Glasgow, some time before I was offered the situation I now have the honour to hold in the Royal Institution of Great Britain. This the reader will perceive, from the manner in which I have mentioned Anderson's Institution. I have not, however, thought it necessary to alter what I have there said, especially as the work was prepared for the press, and sent to London, before I had an idea of leaving Scotland.

THIS work comes before the world very different from what I once expected it would. It was not written when the mind was cheerful and at ease, but in the midst of domestic distress, the most severe that the human heart can feel: it was frequently interrupted by lowness of spirits, occasioned by the sudden death

PREFACE.

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of a beloved wife, the companion of my studies, and partner of my literary labours; and it was only resumed at intervals with a view to relieve a mind oppressed by grief, a state ill suited to composition. It likewise wants the polish which it would have received from the hand of one whose taste and style were infinitely superior to my own; and this is the only rational apology I have to offer for intruding on others my private afflictions, the force of which is yet unabated; and though removed from the sad scene, the deadly arrow sticks in the wound, which in recollection bleeds as fresh as ever.

The face with rapture view'd, I view no more;
The voice with rapture heard, no more I hear:
Yet the lov'd features mem'ry's eyes explore;
Yet the lov'd accents fall on mem'ry's ear.

ROYAL INSTITUTION,
London, Feb. 1st, 1800.



OBSERVATIONS

ON A

TOUR

THROUGH THE HIGHLANDS,

&c. &c.

HAVING long wished to visit some of the most remarkable scenes in the HIGHLANDS and HEBRIDES, particularly the famous island of STAFFA, I set off from Glasgow on the ninth of July, 1798, in the morning, accompanied by Mr. WATTS, a young gentleman who had for some time made landscape and miniature painting his study, and who had likewise an ardent desire to view the sublime scenery of the North. Besides the gratification which I promised myself from such a tour, I was in hopes that my health would be benefited by it: the labours of the session, and close application to the subjects of my lectures, had induced some complaints which frequently attend a sedentary life, and I expected that exercise and a change of

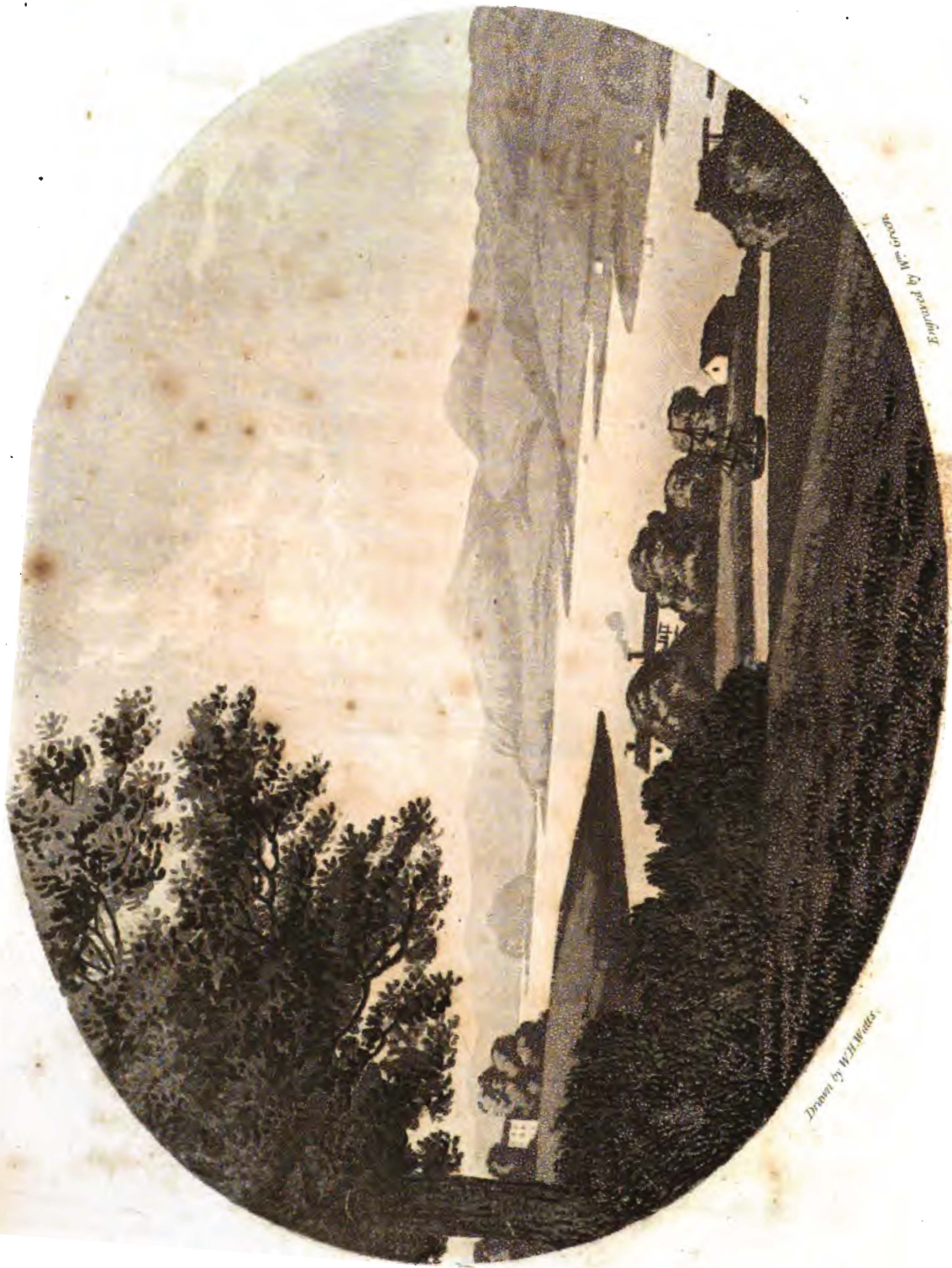
DALNOTTER HILL.

scenery would remove them. Mr. Watts, too, had suffered no little from intense application to his profession ; so that we had both similar objects in view. We took the road leading to Dumbarton, which is very good, the country flat, and ornamented, as might be expected in the neighbourhood of so opulent and populous a city as Glasgow, with villas and country residences.

AFTER passing through Anderston, an improving village, we next came to the village of Patrick, where the company of bakers at Glasgow have some very extensive mills and granaries : these mills are situated on the river Kelvin. About five miles from Glasgow we passed Scotston, close to the Clyde ; soon afterwards we had a view of the ancient borough of Renfrew, on the opposite side of the river, and riding on a little farther, we perceived on our right hand, about a mile and a half from the road, a gateway of a curious gothic structure, which would have been a rather more suitable approach to a castle than to a villa, or small country-house. The house is called Garscadden, and is the property of Mr. Colquhoun.

ABOUT eight miles from Glasgow, on the opposite side of the Clyde, is North-bar, or Sempill-house, the residence of Lord Sempill. The road hitherto, though near the banks of the Clyde, had been flat, and not interesting ; but before we reached the ninth mile-stone, we ascended a little eminence called Dalnotter-hill, just below which is the village of Old Kilpatrick. At

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Drawn by W. J. Woods

Engraved by

View from Dunbar's Hill

this place, the view which had been hitherto confined, begins to open, and presents to the eye a scene which is highly picturesque. The Clyde here expands to a noble river, producing a very fine effect in the landscape: in the middle, the rugged rock of Dumbarton rises abruptly, and seemingly insulated; towards the right is the ruined fort of Dunglass, projecting into the Clyde; a singular situation, but undoubtedly once a place of strength; on the left, almost close to the edge of the water, is seen Erskine, the seat of Lord Blantyre, pleasantly situated, and surrounded by plantations. Farther on the right, you perceive some rude and rugged rocks, dipping their bases in the river, as if to confine it within its limits; these rocks are fringed with brushwood, but here and there the rude fronts appear through the foliage: in the distance the lofty mountains of Argyleshire bound this charming view. Dumbarton, with its glass-works, is seen to the right of the rock of Dumbarton; and on the left may be discerned the towns of Port-Glasgow and Greenock; the numerous white sails on the Clyde, contribute very much to enliven the prospect, of which perhaps a better idea may be formed from the annexed plate, than from any description. In the fore-ground is seen the entrance of the grand canal into the Clyde, with one of the draw-bridges.

THIS canal displays, in a striking view, what can be effected by the art and perseverance of man. Its extreme length from the Forth to the Clyde, is thirty-five miles, beginning at the

AQUEDUCT BRIDGE.

mouth of the Carron on the east, and ending in the Clyde near Kilpatrick, on the west coast of Scotland. It rises and falls 160 feet, by means of thirty-nine locks, twenty of which are on the east side of the summit, and nineteen on the west; for the tide does not ebb so low in the Clyde as in the Forth by nine feet. There are eighteen draw-bridges, and fifteen aqueduct bridges of considerable size. About five miles from Kilpatrick, the canal crosses the river Kelvin, and is carried over a valley by means of an aqueduct bridge, consisting of four arches, sixty-five feet high, and four hundred and twenty in length. The situation of this bridge is very picturesque, and exhibits a striking effort of human ingenuity and labour.

VESSELS of very considerable size, for instance those drawing eight feet water, and not exceeding nineteen feet beam, and seventy-three in length, can pass with great ease along this canal.

THIS amazing work will unquestionably be found of great national utility; by means of it, a tedious and dangerous navigation, north about, from the eastern to the western coast, is avoided, which is at all times desirable; but in winter, and in time of war, a very important object. It will likewise contribute very considerably to the improvement of the country through which it passes, by giving an easy and cheap carriage to its produce, and will greatly conduce to the establishment of manufactures, by affording so excellent a conveyance of the

raw material and manufactured goods, as well as coal, without which it is almost impossible for any manufacture to be carried on to a great extent.

It appears that a navigable canal between the Forth and Clyde, was projected by the ministers of Charles II. for transports and ships of war, the expense of which was calculated at 500,000*l.* a sum very much exceeding the abilities of that monarch's reign. The project was resumed in the year 1722, when a survey was made; but the business was carried no farther till the year 1761, when Lord Napier caused a plan, survey, and estimate of a canal on a small scale, to be made at his own expense. In the year 1764, the trustees for fisheries, &c. procured another survey, plan, and estimate of a canal five feet deep, the expense of which was to be 79,000*l.* In 1766, a subscription was set on foot by a number of respectable merchants in Glasgow, for making a canal four feet deep, and twenty-four broad; but when the bill had nearly passed through Parliament, it was given up on account of the smallness of the scale, and a new subscription commenced for a canal seven feet deep, the estimate of which was 150,000*l.* This obtained the sanction of Parliament, and in the year 1768, this great work was begun, under the inspection of the celebrated engineer, Mr. SMEATON.

To supply such a canal with water, was itself a great work; for this purpose, one reservoir has been formed, which is

twenty-four feet deep, and covers fifty acres; there is another in the neighbourhood of Kilsyth, the depth of which is twenty-two feet, and which extends over a space of seventy acres. This last reservoir was formed at an inconsiderable expense, in comparison of the surface and quantity of water which it contains: the engineer having taken advantage of an extensive hollow, which seemed as if scooped out on purpose by the hand of Nature. At one part only of this hollow, there was a deep opening, 100 feet wide at the bottom, and 200 yards at the top; by filling up this to the height of about twenty-five feet, the work was at once completed; and by leaving a sluice in the centre, it can be filled and emptied at pleasure. The whole is ornamented with plantations, and finished in a neat and masterly manner, and forms perhaps one of the largest and most beautiful artificial sheets of water in the kingdom.

KILPATRICK is an inconsiderable village, but has apparently been a place of more importance in former times than at present. It takes its name from St. Patrick, the famous tutelary saint of Ireland; Kil Patrick signifying the cell of Patrick. He is said to have been born here, and there are some circumstances which favour this tradition.

In the river Clyde, opposite to Kilpatrick Church, is a large stone, or rock, visible at low water, called St. Patrick's stone,* and in a burial place in the church-yard, is a tombstone of

* Statistical Account of Kilpatrick.

ROMAN BRIDGE.

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great antiquity, with a figure engraved on it, said to be that of St. Patrick, and some go so far as to assert, that he was buried under it. From this country he passed over to Ireland, of which he took the charge, and is said to have founded there three hundred and sixty-five churches, ordained three hundred and sixty-five bishops, three thousand priests, and converted twelve thousand persons in one district, baptized seven kings at once, established a purgatory, and with his staff, at once expelled from his favourite island every reptile that stung or croaked!*

FROM Kilpatrick we turned out of the road for about a mile and a half, to view the remains of a Roman bridge over a brook, at the village of Duntocher, in the line of the Roman wall. This bridge has an appearance by no means unpicturesque, the arches being supported by rugged rocks, down which the water of the brook forms a pretty cascade. It has been nearly dilapidated, but was repaired in the year 1772 by Lord Blantyre, as appears from an inscription on a stone placed by the side of it.† The part which is Roman, may however be easily distinguished.

* Pennant's Tour, Part I. p. 160.

† The inscription is as follows:

PONTEM . HUNC . EXTRUI . CURAVIT .
IMP . T . ÆL . ANTONIN . HADR . AUG .
P . P . QUINT . LOLL . UR . BIC . LEG .
FERE . COLLAPSUM . RESTITUIT .
DOMINUS DE BLANTIRE . A .
AER . CHR . MDCCLXXII .

THE Roman wall, (or Graham's Dyke,) as it is commonly called, from a tradition that a Scottish warrior of that name first broke over it) between the Forth and Clyde, may be easily traced near Duntocher by the mound, though none of the stones can be seen, excepting now and then in digging.* This wall was first marked out by Agricola, and completed in the reign of Antoninus Pius, under the direction of Lollius Urbicus, the Roman Prætor. It extended from Dunglass, in the Firth of Clyde, to Abercurnie, in the Firth of Forth, through a space of thirty-six miles and 877 paces, forming a barrier between the unconquered Caledonians on the north, and the Roman dominions on the south; for though the Romans made frequent incursions beyond the rampart, the consequences of these were only temporary; that people having never obtained any permanent establishment northward of this wall. The ditch was originally twenty-two feet deep, and forty-seven wide, and defended by frequent forts or stations.

NEAR the bridge at Duntocher, in the year 1775, as a countryman was digging a trench on the declivity of a hill, he turned up several tiles of uncommon form. They were of several different sizes, the smallest being seven, and the largest twenty-one inches square. They were from two to three inches in thickness, of a reddish colour, and perfectly sound. The lesser ones composed the sides of a canal, or labyrinth of

* In the track of this wall, several stones have been dug up, the inscriptions on many of which are entire, and preserved in the College of Glasgow.

passages, which were covered with the larger tiles, these last forming a floor; above which, when it was discovered, lay two feet deep of earth. This floor was surrounded by a cistern-wall of hewn stone.* The most probable conjecture concerning this building is, that it was used as a *sudorium*, or hot bath, by the neighbouring garrison, as it is known that the Romans almost constantly used this luxury. The stones which composed the bath, as we were informed, were removed, by the tasteless decree of the occupier of the ground, to build a miserable cottage. In the neighbourhood of Duntocher-bridge, was a Roman fort, now entirely demolished; and the village seems to have been partly built with the stones which composed it. On one of these stones, in the side of a cottage, the word N·E·R·O· is still very legible. Some urns have likewise been dug up here. On our return to Kilpatrick, we visited some very extensive flax mills, conducted by Lindsay, Dalrymple, and Co.

WE received a very kind invitation to dinner from Mr. Vassal, an English gentleman then resident near Kilpatrick, which we accepted, and from whom we experienced much hospitality and attention.

AFTER dinner we pursued our route to Dumbarton. Close to the Clyde, and very near the place where the great canal

* See Statistical Account.

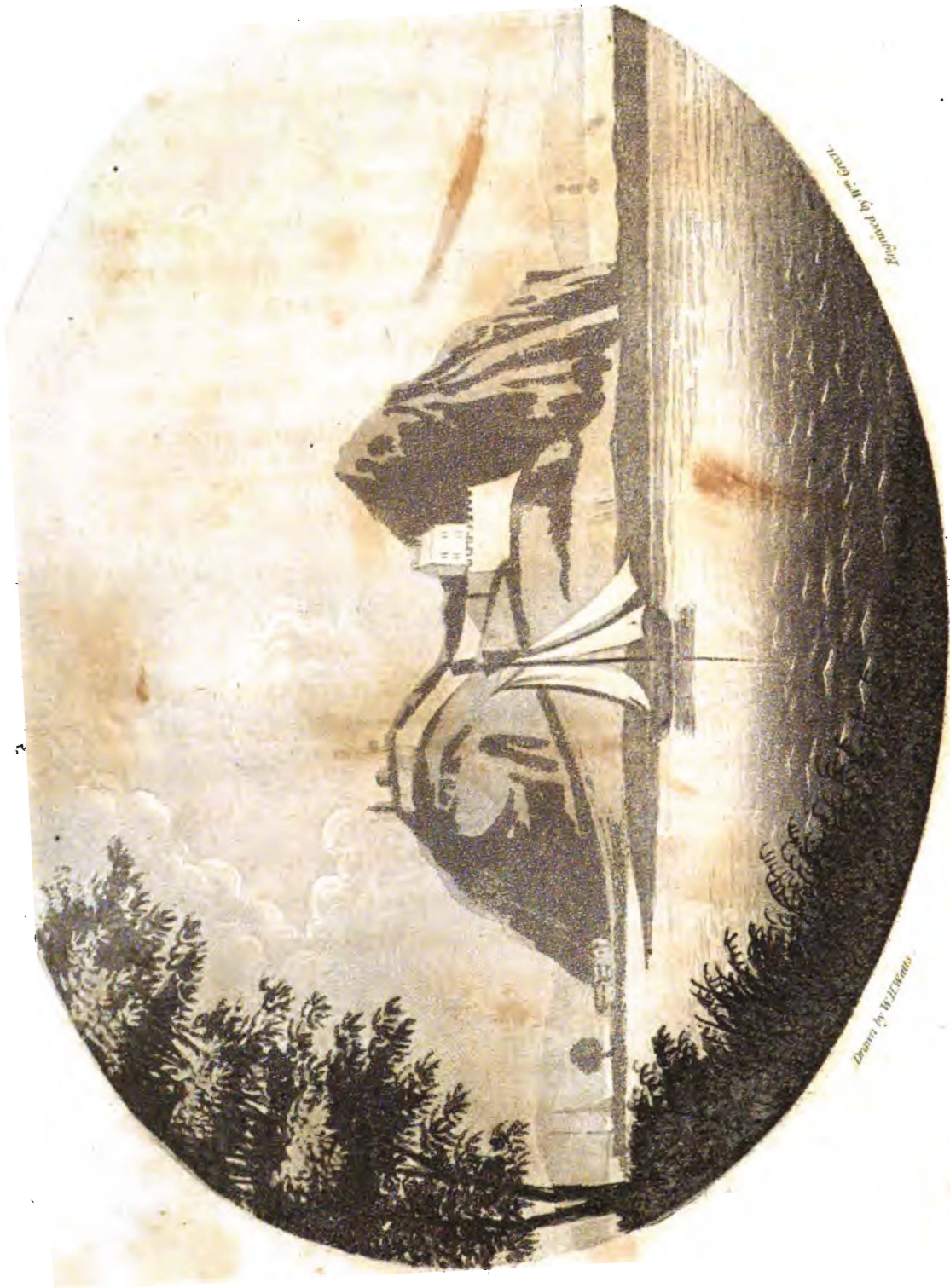
joins that river, we passed Friskiehall, a small villa, singularly situated; and a little farther the ruinous fort of Dunglass, standing on a point of the promontory of Dunglass. This was once a Roman station, and in the time of Oliver Cromwell, a place of considerable strength; from its situation, it was well calculated to command the navigation of the Firth. The fort was blown up in the year 1640, by the treachery of an English boy, page to the Earl of Haddington, who, with many persons of high rank, was destroyed.

WITHIN the ruined walls, one solitary habitation alone remains, and one single inhabitant instead of an armed host; a circumstance that can suggest no unpleasing reflections to the lovers of peace and civilization. The ruins are low and inconsiderable, and by no means so picturesque an object as represented by Gilpin.

As we approached Dumbarton, the bold parts of the rock became more and more distinct: it appears a situation admirably calculated for a fortress, being only accessible on the north-east, which is well fortified.

DUNBUC, the rock on the right of the road, likewise puts on a majestic appearance, and is, as well as the rock of Dumbarton, composed of basaltics, which has some tendency to a columnar form. Indeed, there appears to be a chain of rocks of this kind, though often interrupted for a considerable space, extending

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Drawn by W. H. W. Jones.

Dunbar's Castle.

from Dumbarton to Stirling, and perhaps to Edinburgh, for the rocks on which the castles of Stirling and Edinburgh stand, bear a considerable resemblance to the rock of Dumbarton. The Campsie hills make part of this chain, which ends with Dunbuc; and there can be little doubt that the rock on which the castle of Dumbarton stands, has belonged to it, the intervening soil having probably been washed away. Basaltic columns, as will be afterwards more particularly noticed, have been discovered in several places in this line of mountains, especially in the western front of the great rock above Culcruich, in Stirlingshire, where the columns are very high, distinct, and chiefly hexagonal.

ABOUT the thirteenth mile-stone from Glasgow, we had the first distinct view of Benlomond, which is a very grand one; this mountain forms the centre of the back ground; on each side are hills of inferior magnitude.

As we approached the castle of Dumbarton, it became a very picturesque object: the rock divides about the middle, and forms two summits: the craggy sides are finely broken, and the buildings upon it, though not of themselves beautiful, have a good effect, and, as Mr. Gilpin justly remarks, serve to give it consequence. You enter this fortress by a gate at the bottom. Within the rampart which defends the entrance, is the guard-house, and lodgings for officers; from hence you ascend, by a long flight of stone steps, to that part of the rock where it

divides: here is a battery, barracks for the garrison, and a well, or reservoir, always filled with water. Above these, on the lower summit of the rock, are several batteries mounted with cannon. The access to the higher and narrower summit is very difficult. From the upper batteries are some very extensive views.

LOOKING towards the north, you see Loch Lomond, bounded by rugged mountains, among which Benlomond is conspicuous, rearing his pointed summit far above the rest. Between the lake and Dumbarton, is the rich vale of Leven, enlivened by the windings of the river.

TURNING eastward, the Clyde is seen forming some fine sweeps. Dunglass Castle appears on the left, and Lord Blythe's house on the right. Beyond the Clyde, the distant country is very rich, and on a clear day, the city of Glasgow may be discerned, particularly towards the evening.

THE prospect down the Clyde is no less interesting. The river expands into a large æstuary, occupying a great part of the view: beyond are high mountains, whose rugged outlines and surfaces are softened by distance, or what painters call aerial perspective, and under these mountains on the left, are distinctly seen the towns of Greenock and Port Glasgow. These views are not a little enlivened by the white sails which con-

tinually skim the Clyde, bearing the produce of the most distant parts of the world.

ACCORDING to Bede, the ancient Britons called this fortress Alcluith, or Ancluid, that is, the place on the Cluid, or Clyde; but the Scots, or Caledonians, who were formerly separated from the Britons by the river Leven, called it Dun Britton, or the fort of the Britons, because it was within the territory of the Britons. This word was easily corrupted to Dumbarton; and hence we see that the rock or castle has given the name to the town and country.*

SOME parts of the rock of Dumbarton are strongly magnetic, causing a compass when brought near it to vary considerably. Indeed, this circumstance was observed by Buchanan. In the upper part of the castle, he observes, is a vast piece of rock of the nature of a loadstone, but so closely connected and fastened to the main rock, that no manner of joining appears.†

THE late ingenious professor Anderson of Glasgow, made several experiments on the magnetism of this rock, and marked with paint those parts which possessed magnetism, with the direction of the poles.

* Vide Georgii Buchanni rerum Scotticarum Historiæ, lib. xx. sect. 28.

† In superiore arcis parte, ingens est saxum, Magnesi quidem lapidis eodem castese rupi coagmentatum et adhærens, ut commissura omnino non appareat.

Buchanni rerum, Scot. Hist. lib. xx. sect. 28.

DUMBARTON FORT.

CONSIDERING that the rock is of the basaltic kind, it is not surprizing that it should be in some degree magnetic. All basaltic pillars that have been tried, have been found so in a greater or less degree. Those of the Giant's Causeway on the north-east coast of Ireland, and those of Staffa, are strongly so; the lower parts of the pillars possessing a north polarity, and the higher parts a south; just in the same way, and for the same reason, that iron bars do, which stand long in an erect position. Indeed, this might be expected *à priori* from the nature of basaltes, a considerable part of this substance consisting of iron approaching to a metallic state.

THE true Scotch thistle, a rare plant, having its light green leaves variegated with white, grows in considerable quantity about the bottom of the rock, and sparingly even on the very top.

ACCORDING to Pennant, the Britons in very early times made this rock a fortress, it being usual with them, after the departure of the Romans, to retreat to the tops of craggy inaccessible mountains, to forests, and rocks on the shores of the sea.

BOETHIUS however asserts, that the Scots, or ancient Caledonians, were possessed of it some ages prior to the Britons, and that it resisted all the efforts of Agricola, who besieged it: it is undoubtedly a fort of great antiquity, for the venerable

Bede observes, that it was the strongest fortification possessed by the Britons in his days. In former ages it was deemed impregnable. History, however, informs us, that it was reduced by famine, in the reign of Egbert king of Northumberland, in the year 756, and by escalade in 1571. This being a bold and singular enterprize, I shall take the liberty of relating it at some length, as it may be amusing to those not well acquainted with Scottish history.

At that time, Lord Fleming was governor of the fort, by commission from the banished Queen. It was the only place of strength of which the unfortunate Mary retained possession; and its retention was looked upon as an object of importance by her friends, as it was the most convenient place in the kingdom to land any foreign force that might be sent to her assistance. The strength of the place rendered Lord Fleming more secure than he ought to have been, considering its importance. He boasted to the King of France, that he held in his hands the fetters of Scotland; and whenever the French had leisure from other wars, if they would lend him a little assistance, he could easily put them on, and bring the whole kingdom under their power.

This confidence of the governor was increased by the treachery of the garrison soldiers at Edinburgh castle, who had lately revolted. The sickness of the regent also, who was severely afflicted with the gout, and at that time much hurt by a

fall from his horse, was a circumstance not calculated to abate it; he was likewise encouraged by a truce obtained for them by Elizabeth Queen of England, which was to expire the last day of March. These considerations rendered him and his garrison soldiers so secure and negligent, that they frequently spent the whole night in riot and festivity, in the neighbouring town of Dumbarton, with the same thoughtlessness as if the country had enjoyed the most profound peace.

THE plan of surprizing the garrison was first suggested to the regent, then at Glasgow, by a common soldier who had served in the fortress, but had been disgusted by what he supposed to be ill usage. While he lived in the garrison, his wife used often to visit him, and being accused (perhaps not unjustly) of theft, was punished by order of the governor. Her husband, as Buchannan observes, being an uxorious man, and persuaded of her innocence, burned with revenge; he deserted to the regent, and promised that if he would assign a small party to follow him, he would make him master of the fortress.

THE regent, though he saw the importance of possessing the castle, at first hesitated, from want of confidence in the man, or in the means which he proposed. This being perceived by the soldier, he instantly said, that as they seemed to distrust him, he would go himself, and be the first man to scale the walls: "If you will follow me," said he, with soldier-like bluntness, "I

will make you masters of the place, but if your hearts fail you, then let it alone."

THE man appeared confident, sensible, and resolute; in short, the attempt was deemed worth hazarding, it being thought worth while to risk almost any danger for such a prize. The expedition was committed to Captain Craufurd, a bold and excellent soldier. The first of April was the day fixed on for the execution of this daring attempt, as the truce granted to the rebels, through the mediation of the Queen of England, would then have expired. In the mean time, ladders and other necessaries were prepared, and the whole was kept profoundly secret.

ON the evening of the 31st of March, an officer of the name of Cunningham was sent, with a party of horse, to guard all avenues to the castle, that no intelligence of the design might reach the governor. Craufurd followed him with a small but determined band: the place of rendezvous was the foot of Dunbuc, a hill before described, and situated about a mile and a half from the castle.

HERE Craufurd informed the soldiers of the design of their expedition; he shewed them the person who was to lead them on, and had promised first to mount the walls; and told them that he and the other officers were determined to follow. The soldiers were easily persuaded to follow their leaders; the foot,

immediately proceeded towards the castle, while the horse were ordered to remain at Dunbuc, to assist them in their retreat, should the enterprize miscarry.

In their way to the rock, two circumstances occurred which disconcerted them; the bridge over a brook which runs between the fields was broken down, and a fire appeared suddenly at a small distance from it; this led them to suspect that the design had been discovered, that the bridge had been broken down to stop them, and that the fire had been kindled by the soldiers from the garrison, to discover or prevent their approach. But a select band, resolutely bent upon their object, were not to be repulsed or intimidated by trifles: the bridge was soon repaired, so as to be made passable, and the scouts who were sent towards the place where the light was seen, could find no appearance either of fire or light, which gives Buchanan reason to suppose that it had been an ignis fatuus, or meteor of some kind.*

WHEN they arrived at the bottom of the rock, the night was far advanced, and they were afraid lest the clearness of the sky, which was covered with stars, and the appearance of day-light, should discover them to the centinels who watched above.

* Missi ad locum, ubi flamma visa fuerat, speculatores retulerunt, nullum ibi ignis vestigium repertum, unde intellectum est, ardorem illum ex eo genere esse flammarum, quæ, in aëre genitæ, interim subsidunt in terras, et subito conspectæ vanescunt.—Buchanni Rerum, Scot. Hist. lib. xx. sect. 31.

THE mist, however, which generally at this season of the year, hangs heavy over rivers and lakes, had overspread the upper regions of the castle; a circumstance esteemed fortunate by the officers, and by the men superstitiously regarded as a good omen.

It was at the summit of the rock that the assailants made this bold attempt, because in that place there were fewer centinels, and their guide assured them they would find a good landing. Here, however, they met with an accident, which had nearly frustrated the whole design. The first ladder was scarce fixed, when the weight and eagerness of those who mounted, brought it to the ground; and though no person received any injury by the fall, yet they feared that the noise might alarm the centinels. Listening a moment, and finding all still, they proceeded again; and placing their ladders with more caution, several of them attained the first landing: there they found an ash-tree growing out of a cleft in the rock, to which they tied ropes, and thus drew up their fellow soldiers. Their ladders were made fast a second time; but, in the middle of the ascent, they met with an unforeseen difficulty. One of their companions was seized with a sudden fit, and clung, seemingly without life, to the ladder. All were at a stand—to pass him was impossible; to tumble him down the rock cruel; and might occasion a discovery; but Captain Craufurd's presence of mind did not for a moment forsake him: He ordered the soldier to be tied fast to the ladder; that he

might not fall when the fit was over, and turning that side towards the rock, they mounted on the other without difficulty. Day now began to dawn, and there still remained a high wall to scale; but after surmounting so many greater difficulties, this was soon accomplished. Ramsay, the guide, and two soldiers got upon the wall; they were discovered by the centinels, who gave the alarm, and assaulted them with stones. Ramsay instantly leaped down into the castle, and was set upon by three of the guard; he defended himself with great courage till his fellow soldiers seeing his danger, leaped down after him, and presently dispatched the assailants. The rest of the party followed as quickly as possible, with repeated shouts, and the utmost fury, and took possession of the magazine and cannon. The officers and soldiers of the garrison being alarmed, ran out naked and unarmed, and were more solicitous about their own safety, than making resistance.

THE governor, Lord Fleming, slipping down part of the rock, and descending along a bye-way, was let out at a postern, got into a small boat which was under the walls, and fled into Argyleshire.

AFTER the principal prisoners were secured, and the soldiers had leisure to examine the path they had taken, it appeared to them such a tremendous precipice, that they declared if they had foreseen the danger of the service, no reward whatever should have induced them to undertake it.

THUS did private resentment, without any political consideration whatever, put into the hands of the regent, this important fortress. It is a curious reflection, but upon examination it will be found generally true, that the greater number of public events of consequence, have their source in private pique, or private interest. History is full of instances, where from these motives, mankind have undertaken, what they never would have done from more enlarged considerations; and the great business of the politician is to turn these private interests to his advantage. In the present instance, probably, no reward could have induced the soldier to betray the garrison, while pique at the conduct of the governor carried him to such a length, that rather than forego his revenge, he risked the massacre of numbers who had never offended him. Reason is a cumbrous machine, which cannot easily be moved; but our passions are the springs by which the designing act upon us, and gain their purposes.

As the castle of Dumbarton commands the navigation of the Clyde, and is the key of the western highlands, the fortifications are generally kept in repair; it is garrisoned by invalids under the command of a governor, and some subaltern officers. The government is said to be worth 700*l.* a year.

DUMBARTON is but an inconsiderable town, built upon the eastern bank of the Leven, which almost encircles it. It has some few modern houses, but the greatest part of the buildings

are antique. It was erected into a royal burgh by Alexander II. in the year 1221, and has a good harbour, where large brigs may lie safe in all weathers. About 2000 tons of shipping belong to this place, which employ 70 seamen. The town is entirely free of all imposts and borough taxes, but is by no means in a flourishing or increasing state. This seems to be owing chiefly to the corporation laws, which prevent strangers from working at their trades, without paying very high entries.* Monopolies of this kind generally do harm to a place, as well as to the corporation itself, and ought to be abolished: indeed there are few instances of places attaining any considerable consequence, where trade is thus fettered. In this town is a considerable manufactory of crown and bottle glass, which employs about 130 hands; of the extent of this manufacture some idea may be formed, on being told that it pays on an average 3,800*l* a year in duties to government. The way in which these duties are collected, is however a great check upon the manufacture.

THE extensive printfields in the neighbourhood employ many of the inhabitants of Dumbarton: indeed of late several families have removed from the town to Renton, Bonhill, and other new villages, to be nearer the works where they are employed.

* Stat. Report of Dumbarton.

PACKETS sail every day to Glasgow, Greenock, and Port Glasgow; and a stage coach runs three times a week to Glasgow.

AT a little distance from the town to the north east, is a gothic arch, which is supposed to have been formerly near the centre of the town; but the Leven here expands into a kind of lake, or bason, before it joins the Clyde, and has probably encroached upon the town. This arch is all that remains of a college of secular priests.

THOUGH the general appearance of the place is dull, yet it is a little enlivened in the summer season, by the travellers passing through in their way to the charming scenes of Loch Lomond and the highlands. Dumbarton formerly gave the title of Earl to a branch of the Douglas family.

THIS place is well adapted for manufactures, both on account of its situation on the Firth of Clyde, and from its being well supplied with fuel and provisions, those indispensable requisites to the manufacturing poor, and on reasonable terms: house rent is likewise low—But the people are fond of a sea-faring life, as is usual in such situations: indeed this is the greatest bar to manufactures in a sea-port, the inhabitants having seldom the steadiness requisite for manufacturers. There are but few instances, either in England or Scotland, of manufactures being carried on, to any great extent, in a sea-port town.

AGRICULTURE, in this county, has not had much attention paid to it, at least to its improvement, till within a very few years; but the public spirit has of late been considerably roused to this most useful and independent occupation; and the county of Dumbarton, which is very capable of improvement, is fast advancing in its agricultural progress. The farmers in this neighbourhood do indeed possess numerous advantages; being so near a sea-port town, they have high prices, and ready money for every thing they raise. Wheat is sown in October, November, December, and even in January, and is generally reaped in August. Oats are sown from the end of March to the middle of April; and reaped about the end of August, September, or sometimes not till October. Barley is sown about the end of May, or beginning of June, and reaped in August or September. As the latter part of the season is often very wet, the corn, and particularly oats, suffer very much, especially when it is not reaped till late in October; would it not be advantageous, in most parts of the west and north of Scotland, to procure seed corn from countries still farther north, which is known to ripen sooner than the seed of this country? In Lapland, barley ripens in sixty days, whereas in the south of France, it takes no less than 130 or 140 days to ripen it. The same holds true, though not perhaps to such a degree, with respect to seeds brought from these countries. This depends upon the different state of the irritable principle; both the plants and animals of northern climates, possessing more irritability than those of southern latitudes, the irritability of these

last being exhausted by the stimulus of heat. I could wish to direct the attention of the western parts of Scotland to this circumstance, as it would certainly be important to hasten the harvest in these countries as much as possible. August is the month in which the least rain falls here during the summer, excepting June: September and October are often very wet.* During these months, not only a great quantity of rain falls, but it is more constant, accompanied by a cold and cloudy atmosphere, which is very unfavourable either to the ripening of grain, or drying it after it is cut; and, though in July and August a good deal of rain falls, as appears by the abstract given in the note, yet this falls in pretty heavy showers, while the intervals are very fine, the sun shining clear and bright, often for several days together.

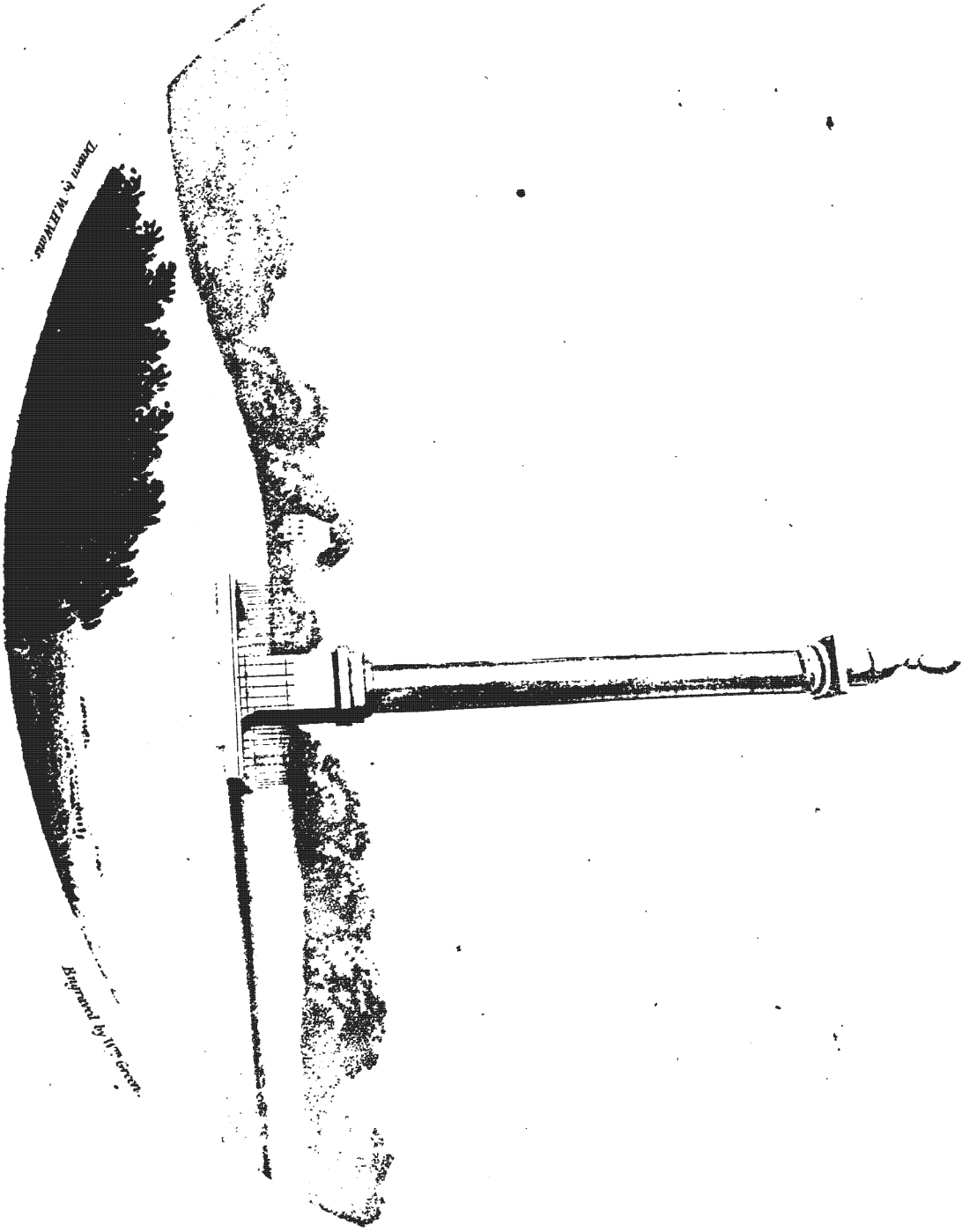
* The following is an abstract made from a journal, which I found among the papers of the late Professor Anderson, who kept a very accurate account of the quantities of rain which fell at Glasgow, from the year 1782 to 1793 inclusive. I have put down the average quantity for each month during that time. Glasgow is about 15 miles east from Dumbarton, and nearly the same quantity of rain is supposed to fall at both places, though perhaps rather more at the latter.

	<i>Inches.</i>		<i>Inches.</i>	
January - - -	2,71		July - - -	3,08
February - - -	2,22		August - - -	2,50
March - - -	1,63		September - - -	3,23
April - - -	1,22		October - - -	3,28
May - - -	2,11		November - - -	2,15
June - - -	1,76		December - - -	2,77-

The average quantity of rain at Glasgow, during the same number of years, deduced from the same journal, is 28,958 inches.

WE slept at Dumbarton, and left that town on the 10th of July, at six o'clock in the morning. Before we had got half a mile from the place, it rained exceedingly hard, but in about half an hour it cleared up, and the remaining part of the day was remarkably fine. On leaving Dumbarton, we crossed the bridge over the river Leven, which issues from Loch Lomond, and falls into the Clyde; we passed the road to the left which leads to Arroquhar by Loch-gair and Loch-loung, and pursued that to Luss, which is excellent and remarkably pleasant. On the right is the Leven, on the left very fine sloping banks, covered with wood, and before us the valley, which is extremely fertile.

WHEN we had advanced about two miles on the road, we passed, on our right, the house where DR. SMOLLET was born; an old and high mansion, built in the style of the time: a little farther on the left, is a monument erected to the memory of this celebrated man, by his relative, the late JAMES SMOLLET, of Bonhill. This monument is very lofty, and may be seen from a considerable distance. The annexed plate gives a view of the monument and house: It is a round column, of the Tuscan order, terminated by a vase. On a tablet fronting the road, is the following inscription.



Designed by Mr. Green.

Executed by Mr. Green.

Wm. L. G. & Co. Stone and Monument

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27

Siste Viator!

Si lepores, ingeniique venam benignam;

Si morum callidissimum pictorem,

Unquam es miratus,

Immorare paululum memoriæ

TOBIÆ SMOLLET, M. D.

Viri virtutibus hisce

Quas in homine et cive,

Et laudes et imiteris,

Haud mediocriter ornati;

Qui in literis variis versatus,

Postquam, felicitate sibi propria,

Sese posteris commendaverat,

Morte acerba raptus,

Anno Ætatis 51,

Eheu! quàm procul à patria,

Prope Liburni portem in Italia,

Jacet sepultus:

Tali tantoque viro, patrueli suo,

Cui, in decursu, lampada

Se potius tradidisse decuit,

Hanc columnam,

Amoris eheu! inane monumentum,

In ipsis Liviniæ ripis

Quas, versiculis, sub exitu vitæ, illustratas,

Primis, infans, vagitibus personuit,

Ponendam curavit

JACOBUS SMOLLET de Bonhill.

FOR the sake of my English readers, I shall subjoin the following free translation, by Mr. LETTICE.

Stop, Traveller!

If humour, and a happy vein of wit;
If manners, painted by the most skilful hand,
Ever challenged your admiration,
Pause awhile on the memory
Of TOBIAS SMOLLET, M. D.

A person not slightly adorned with those virtues
which deserve your praise and imitation,
As a man, and a citizen.

Conversant in various parts of literature,
After he had recommended his name to posterity,
by a happy exertion of original genius,
He was cruelly snatched away by death,
In the fifty-first year of his age.
Alas! far distant from his country,
near Leghorn, a port of Italy,
Sleep his remains!

To such and so great a man,
Was this Column erected,
By his cousin-german, JAMES SMOLLET, of Bonhill,
Who, in the decline of life,
Might rather have resigned this office of piety,
to be performed towards his own remains,
By a relative so prematurely deceased.
Unavailing monument of affection!

Placed on the banks of that Leven,
which resounded the first cries of his infancy;
And not long before his departure,
Its own praises, the tribute of his muse.

THE village immediately beyond the monument, is called Renton; it is in an improving state, and is chiefly inhabited by persons employed in the printing works: a little farther, on the right, is Cordale, belonging to Stirling and Co. who are likewise proprietors of some of the most extensive printfields on the banks of the river. An idea of the large scale on which these works are conducted may be formed, when it is known, that the Leven and Milton printfields pay to government upwards of 40,000*l.* a year duty.

THERE can be no doubt that the country is enriched, and the nation benefited, so far as wealth may be accounted a benefit, by these works; but at the same time it will scarce be denied, that the innocent simplicity of manners will be banished, and the love of gain, which has a strong tendency to contract the heart, and banish the social affections, will, as well as other vicious propensities, take their place. Could Dr. Smollet take a view of his native vale, instead of the quiet and happy pastoral scenes which he so elegantly describes; instead of bleating flocks, and shepherds piping their rural lays, he will find it the busy haunt of men; and though, as a patriot, he might perhaps rejoice, yet it is much to be doubted whether he would not regret the

ODE TO LEVEN WATER.

calm repose this country enjoyed when it was so dear to him. His charming Ode to Leven Water, paints the beauties of this vale in colours so just, so chaste, and so pleasing, that I cannot forbear inserting it.

ON Leven's banks, while free to rove,
 And tune the rural pipe to love,
 I envied not the happiest swain
 That ever trod th' Arcadian plain.

PURE stream! in whose transparent wave
 My youthful limbs I wont to lave;
 No torrents stain thy limpid source,
 No rocks impede thy dimpling course,
 That sweetly warbles o'er its bed,
 With white, round, polish'd pebbles spread;
 While, lightly pois'd, the scaly brood
 In myriads cleave thy crystal flood.
 The springing trout, in speckled pride;
 The salmon, monarch of the tide;
 The ruthless pike, intent on war;
 The silver eel, and mottled par.

DEVOLVING from thy parent lake,
 A charming maze thy waters make,
 By bow'rs of birch and groves of pine,
 And hedges flower'd with eglantine.

STILL on thy banks so gaily green,
May num'rous herds and flocks be seen ;
And lasses chanting o'er the pail,
And shepherds piping in the dale ;
And ancient faith, that knows no guile,
And industry imbrown'd with toil ;
And hearts resolv'd, and hands prepar'd,
The blessings they enjoy to guard !

PROCEEDING about a mile, on the right we passed Bonhill, the seat of MR. SMOLLET; and near half a mile farther, the road that leads to Balloch,* on the other side of the river, where a fair for horses is held annually on the 5th of September. There is a ferry over the Leven to Balloch, from whence the road leads to Buchannan, the residence of the Duke of Montrose, and to the village of Killcarn, the native place of the celebrated George Buchannan, the poet and historian: as a Latin poet he certainly excelled all his cotemporaries, and was perhaps inferior to none whatever, since the Augustan age. Near Killcarn, is erected to his memory, an obelisk 100 feet high, which is visible from several parts of Loch Lomond. This obelisk was built by subscription, in the year 1778, more than 200 years after his death. The late Professor Anderson, first suggested the propriety of such a monument, and was indefatigable in obtaining subscriptions; it was first intended to be placed

* Balloch signifies the mouth of the lake.

at the head of Buchannan-street, in Glasgow; but the place of his nativity was judged more proper.*

It may indeed be observed, that this charming country has been fertile in genius, as well as beautiful scenery, and the fruits of the earth. At Garlies, in the neighbourhood of Loch-Lomond, and not far from the Leven, was born another great man; perhaps one of the greatest that ever lived, if greatness be estimated by the benefits bestowed upon mankind. This person was Lord NAPIER, the inventor of logarithms, a discovery, which, by the ease and expedition it has introduced into calculation, has wonderfully assisted the science of astronomy, as well as practical geometry and navigation.

PASSING the road leading to Balloch Ferry, about the fifth milestone, on the road from Dumbarton to Luss, we had the first view of the lake, which is particularly grand and picturesque. Its polished surface, surrounded by rugged mountains, and broken by rich and beautiful islands, cannot fail to arrest the attention of every stranger. On the border of the lake, near its southern extremity, is Cameron, the property of Mr. Smollet of Bonhill, well sheltered, and commanding a fine view of the watery expanse. About a mile farther, we passed *Belretiro*, the property of a younger son of the family of Bonhill; its beautiful and retired situation well deserves the name given it by the

* Some particulars of the life of this celebrated man will be found in the Appendix.

owner; it commands a charming view of the lake and its different islands.

ON the left is Dun Fion, or the Hill of Fingal, supposed to have been one of the hunting seats of that hero. We next crossed, by a small bridge, the water of Fruin, hurrying into the lake, and rising on the left in Glen Fruin, or the Glen of Sorrow, so called from a bloody conflict which took place there between the COLQUHOUNS and MACGREGORS.

IN the year 1594, the clan of the Macgregors, a lawless and turbulent clan, whose property and residence were in Glenorchay, came down upon the low country of Dumbartonshire, and committed various outrages and depredations, particularly upon the territories of the Colquhouns; which plundering excursions they several times repeated. In the year 1602, Humphrey Colquhoun raised his vassals to oppose them, and was joined by many gentlemen in the neighbourhood, whose property had suffered by the Macgregors. The parties met in Glen Fruin, where a dreadful combat ensued. They fought with great obstinacy till night parted them, and many were killed on both sides, but the loss of the Colquhouns was very great. The laird of Colquhoun escaped, and retired to a strong castle on the banks of the lake, but was closely pursued by a party of the enemy; they broke into the castle, and found him in a vault, where they put him to death, with many circumstances of cruelty. This happened in the month of February. What added to the horror of

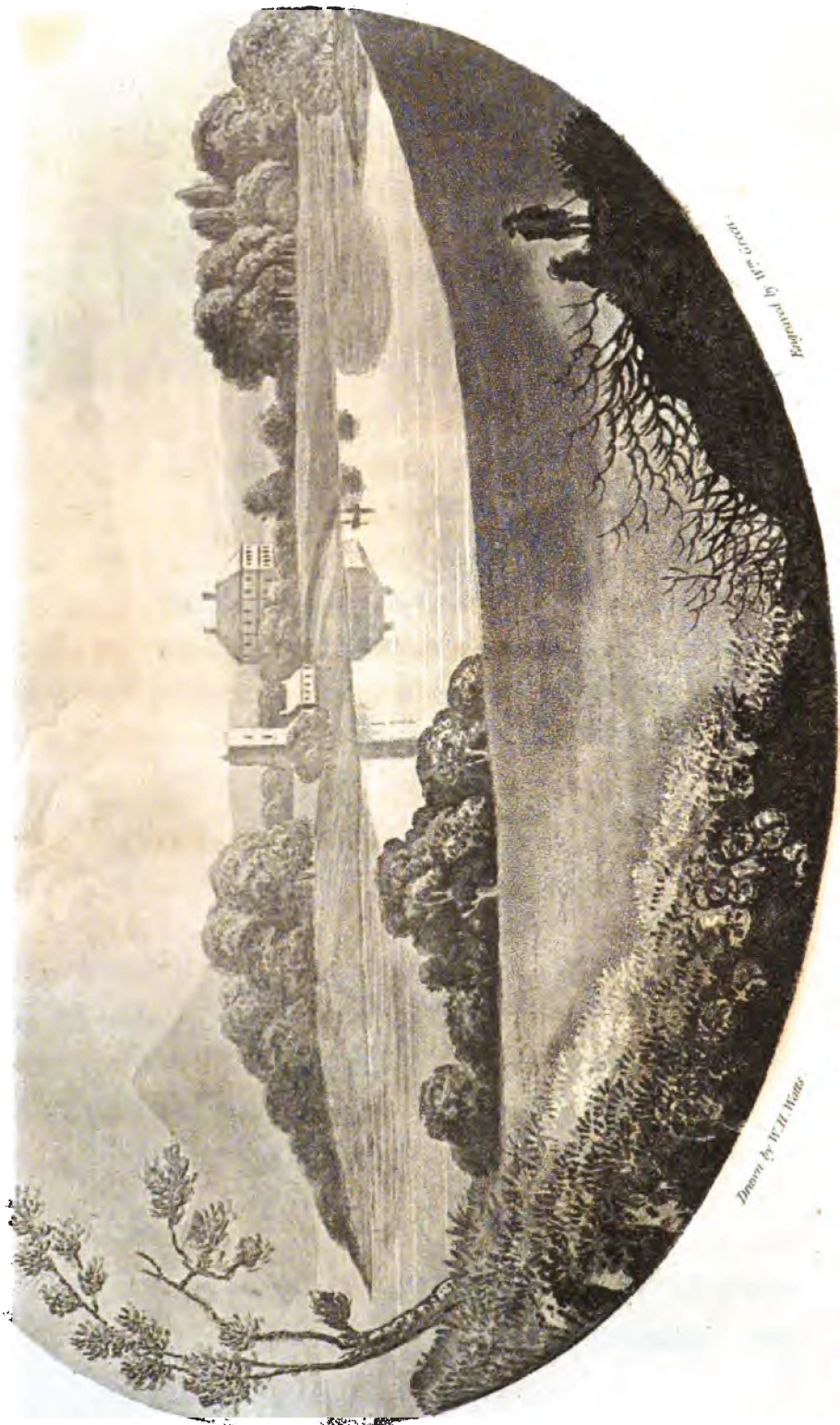
the conflict, was the massacre of several young gentlemen, who had taken no share in it whatever. They had come from the school of Dumbarton, to see the battle, which they beheld from a hill above Glen Fruin, but were in the evening shut up in a barn for safety. The Macgregors discovering them, barbarously put them to death, to the number of eighty.

ONE of the survivors of the Colquhouns, who was now become the chief, supplicated the assistance and protection of James VI. against this lawless clan; and in order to excite the compassion of his majesty, he carried with him a number of women, who each displayed a bloody garment of some relation or friend that had been murdered by the Macgregors. On account of these cruelties, the clan of Macgregor was proscribed as "lawless limmers, or villains." Even the name was to be for ever abolished, and at baptism no clergyman was to give it under the penalty of banishment and deprivation.

HAPPILY such times are no more! The legislature has some time since repealed these acts, alledging that "the causes inductive of them for suppressing the name of Gregor or Macgregor, are now little known, and have long ceased." The tribe is as civilized and peaceable as any other, and distinguished by active virtues.

FROM this part of the road we had a very beautiful view of the lake, by whose side we now travelled, seldom losing sight of

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Engraved by W. H. Miller

Drawn by W. H. Miller

Reader?

it. Near the ninth milestone we passed Ross Lodge, on our right, the property of Mr. COLQUHOUN; and soon afterwards came in sight of Rosdoe, the seat of Sir JAMES COLQUHOUN of Luss.

THIS house is most charmingly situated, on a rich peninsula, projecting into the lake, so as to appear insulated: the ground is finely wooded, and a tower of the old castle, the habitation of Sir James Colquhoun's ancestors, and probably that in which the laird was murdered by the Macgregors, forms an excellent contrast to the modern mansion: some very bold and rugged mountains compose the back ground; indeed, a more charming situation than this is seldom seen.

A LITTLE farther on the same side of the road, stands Camstradden, the property of one of the ancient family of Colquhouns; and still to the right, on the side of a hill, is a valuable quarry of blue slate. From 250,000 to 360,000 slates have been annually exported from it. Many of them are sent down the lake, and along the Leven to Greenock, Glasgow, and Paisley, but the greater part goes across the lake to Stirlingshire. This quarry employs about twenty hands. There is another on the estate of Luss, but not quite so extensive.*

LEAVING this quarry, we crossed the water of Luss, a furious torrent, precipitating itself from the lofty mountains on the left,

* Stat. Account of Luss.

VILLAGE OF LUSS.

36
into the lake. Soon after crossing this turbulent stream, we arrived at the village of Luss, and breakfasted at the inn, but found the attention and accommodations very indifferent.*

THIS village is situated on a flat piece of ground, projecting into the lake, through the middle of which, the water of Luss passes, whose banks are beautifully clothed with wood. It may indeed be observed, that wherever we find a piece of level ground encroaching on the lake, we also find a stream or rivulet running through it; and it is this stream which has formed the encroachment: the sand and other substances washed down by the mountain torrents, and deposited in the plain, where the velocity of the water decreases, gradually exclude the water of the lake, and at last confine the rivulet itself to a narrow channel.

THE situation of Luss is delightful, being near the middle of the lake, and having a view of several of the islands, and of the cloud-capped mountains, indented with deep ravines. The

* BOTH sides of the road from Dumbarton to Luss, are interesting to a botanist. The *Digitalis purpurea*, or fox glove, enlivens the hedge-rows the whole way with its purple spikes: opposite Cameron, are amazing quantities of the *Spiraea ulmaria*, or meadow-sweet, and *Valeriana officinalis*, or great wild valerian, the largest I ever saw. Cats are very fond of the root of this plant, and rat-catchers employ it to draw the rats together. Near Ross Lodge, on the opposite side of the road, the *Narbecium ossifragum*, or balfard asphodel, grows in abundance. This plant has obtained its specific name from its supposed property of softening the bones of animals that eat it. This opinion, however, wants confirmation. (See Withering's Botany.) In many parts of the road between Rosdoe and Luss, the *Erica tetralix*, or cross-leaved heath, beautifies the banks with its elegant purple flowers.

church and manse stand close to the border of the lake, concealed among trees.*

AFTER breakfast we repaired to the manse, to visit Dr. STUART, the minister, a man of great taste and learning; he received us very politely, and shewed us his garden, which contains a variety of scarce plants, particularly British alpines, brought by himself from their native mountains. I found here most of the scarce plants which grow upon Benlomond and Benevis, as well as in the wilds of the Hebrides, but being removed into a milder clime, they flourish more luxuriantly.

Dr. STUART has for some time been engaged in translating the Bible into Gaelic.

As we wished to visit some of Loch Lomond's beautiful islands, Dr. Stuart had the goodness to procure us a boat, and we rowed towards one, which was at a little distance from Luss, from whose high top we were told we should have a view of the greatest part of the lake. The island is called Inchtavanach, and when we reached it, we were by no means disappointed; for whether we consider the extent of Loch Lomond, or the

* In 1790 a cotton mill was erected near this village, of a size the most suitable to the place; being sufficiently large to give bread to such as might otherwise want employment, but not to give encouragement to the vices, which are too apt to abound wherever a promiscuous multitude is assembled. It employs from thirty to forty persons, young and old. (Stat. Account.)

variety and grandeur of its scenery, it is undoubtedly superior to any lake in Great Britain.

THIS magnificent expanse of water is about thirty measured miles in length, in some parts its breadth exceeds eight or ten miles, and its surface contains more than 20,000 acres of water.*

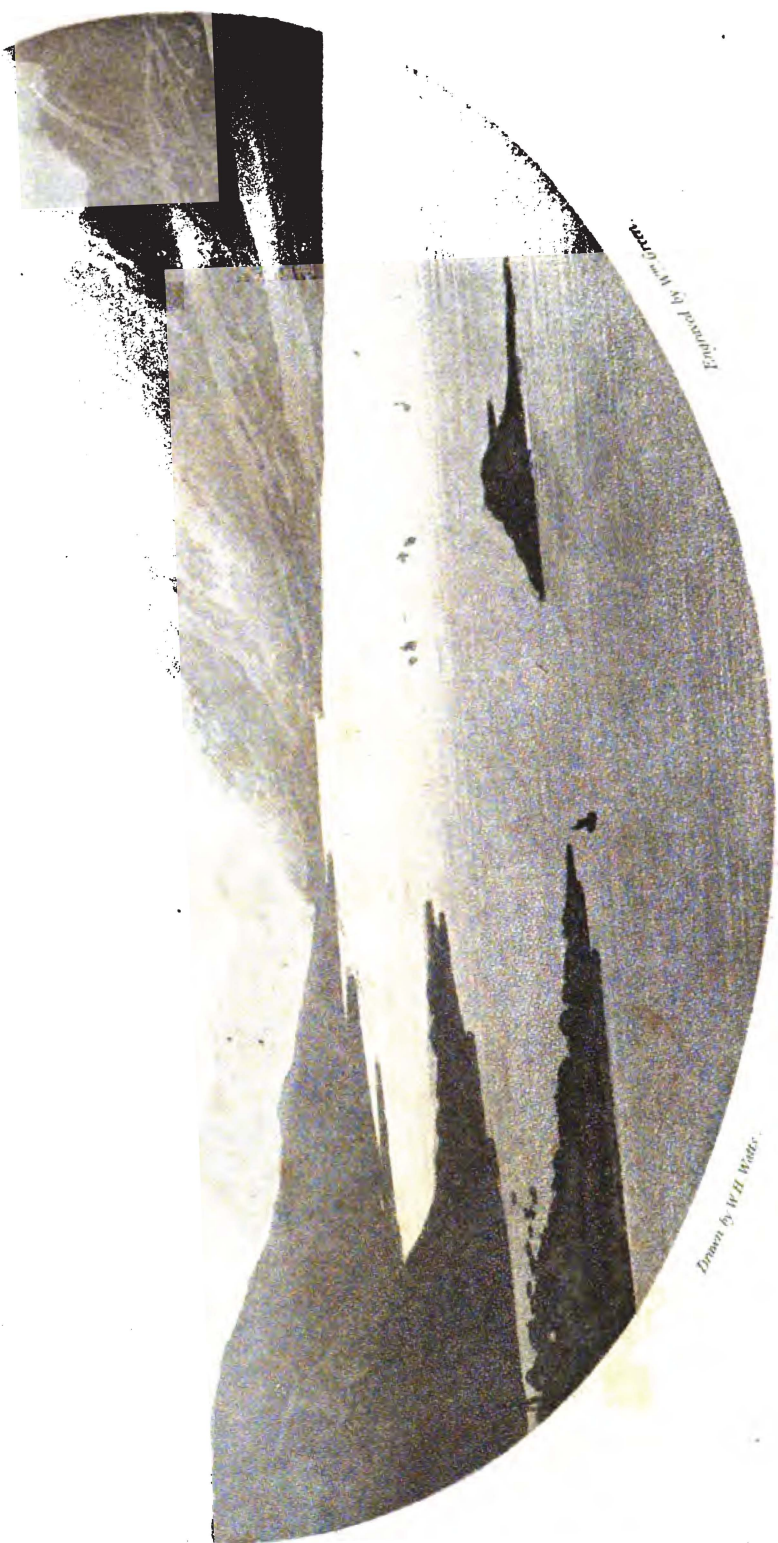
THE number of islands, small and great, is at present about thirty: most of them are finely wooded, and ten considerable in size. Inchtavanach, which we had now reached, is about three quarters of a mile long, and near half a mile broad. It contains about 150 acres, chiefly covered with wood and heath,† the latter growing to a very large size. This island is not at present inhabited—at a remote period, a monk is said to have fixed his residence there, from whom it derives its name; *Incb-ta-vanach* signifying the island of the monk's house. A sweeter retirement, or one more adapted for contemplation, could not perhaps have been chosen. This is the highest island in the lake, and is composed chiefly of grey granite; towards the lower parts are found some rocks of micaceous schistus, and considerable quantities of quartz.—It is frequented by the roebuck.

THE ascent up the island is very steep, but is now much facilitated by a winding road made by Sir JAMES COLQUHOUN.

* Stat. Account of Luss.

† *Erica vulgaris*.

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Sp. R. R. R. R. R.

When we gained the top, our labour was repaid by the beautiful views it afforded. Towards the north, the scenery was very bold indeed: the lake is terminated, and, as it were, confined, by Benlomond and other highland mountains, which dip their steep sides in the water, and hide their lofty fronts above the clouds. The sweet village of Luss, and several of the islands, are comprehended in this view.

On turning to the south, the view is much more soft, though less sublime; some of the larger and more beautiful islands, with the peninsula of Rosdoe, are included in it. At a distance is seen the rock of Dumbarton, with gently swelling mountains to the east and west, whose bases are finely wooded.

As from the top of this island, we had a view of most of the rest, this will be as proper a place as any to give a short description of them.

THE most southern and largest island in the lake is *Inch-Murrin*, which is about two miles in length, and one in breadth. It is the property of the Duke of MONTROSE, is well wooded, and abounds in pasture. This island supports about 200 deer, under the care of a game-keeper, who with his family reside on it. At the west end of the isle are the ruins of an old castle, once the habitation of the Earls of Lennox, near which stands a neat hunting lodge, built by the Duke of Montrose in 1793.

THE next island, north of Inch-Murrin, is *Grange*, about half a mile in length, covered with oak wood, and affording but little pasture.

Inch-torr, or *Torremach*, is the next; this island is about the size of the former, and is, like it, covered with oaks. It derives its name from the circumstance of its consisting of small hills or eminences, covered with wood.

ON the east side of Inch-torr, is *Inch-caillaich*, or the isle of Nuns, as the name imports. It is about a mile in length, high, and very woody: was once the burial place of the Macgregors, and is still used for that purpose by the inhabitants of the parish of Buchannan. The remains of a small chapel are seen here. This island is also the property of the Duke of Montrose; it is inhabited, and produces good wheat and oats.

Inch-Clear is a small island, lying to the south east of Inch-caillaich, entirely covered with wood.

TO the south of this last lies *Inch-Aber*, so named from its being situated near the place where the river Endrick discharges itself into the lake. Aber in Gaelic signifying the mouth of a river; and, indeed, it seems not unlikely that this island may have been formed by the earthy substances deposited by the river.

PROCEEDING northward, the island immediately above Inch-caillich, is Inch-fad, or the long island, which is about half a mile in length, and narrow; it has but little wood, is inhabited, and produces excellent grain and pasture.

THESE seven islands, which I have just described, form, as Mr. PENNANT supposes, part of that chain of mountains called the Grampian hills, which traverses Scotland through a space of more than 180 miles, from the hill of Ardmore on the Firth of Clyde, to the Girdleness of Aberdeen. The course of these islands, which is from south-east to north-west, is evidently in the line of the Grampians.

AMONG the remaining cluster of islands, to the south-west, is a small round island, called *Inch-Galbraith*. In this island are the ruins of a castle, which once belonged to a family of that name; it is covered with wood, and is resorted to by the osprey, or sea eagle.

NORTH of this is *Inch-Conagan*, an island about half a mile long, and more than a quarter broad, covered with oak and fir.

To the south-east of Inch-tavanach, which has been before described, and directly south of Inch-Conagan, is *Inch-Moan*, or the moss isle. It is about three quarters of a mile long, and a quarter broad; it is a very flat isle, and contains upwards of a

hundred acres, chiefly of peat-moss, which supplies the village of Luss, and the neighbourhood with peats.

To the eastward of this last, is *Inch-Cruin*, which is about three-quarters of a mile in length, and has but little wood. It is an asylum for insane persons.

To the north of this island is *Inch-Lonaig*, near a mile long, and more than a quarter of a mile broad; it contains above 150 acres, one-half of which is covered by a natural wood of old yews, some of them very large. When bows and arrows were in use, this island was of great value, and the trees were preserved with the utmost care.

THIS island has for many years been used as a deer park by Sir JAMES COLQUHOUN.

THERE are several other islands, but not remarkable, either for size, or any other circumstance; among these are Cardach, Buckinch, &c. To give a better idea of the lake and its islands, a sketch is subjoined.

THE depth of Loch Lomond is very various. South of Luss, it seldom exceeds 20 fathoms; north from that it is much greater. Opposite the point of Farkin, it is 66; a little farther north, 80 fathoms. For about a mile from Tarbet, it is, with little difference, 86 fathoms; about two miles north of that



LOCH LOMOND.

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place, it is 100 fathoms, which is probably the greatest depth of the lake. Beyond this, its depth gradually diminishes to its north end. The north and deeper part of Loch Lomond is never covered with ice: but south of Luss, in severe frosts, its surface has become so completely frozen, as to render it safe for men, or even for horses and loaded sledges, to go from each side to the different islands. It is remarkable, however, that part of the narrow sound between Inch-Tavanach and Inch-Conagan, the average depth of which no where exceeds two fathoms and a half, and where there is no perceptible current, never was known to freeze, even in the severest winter.* This is most probably owing to some springs rising there, fed by the neighbouring high grounds, the water from which will continually issue of a temperature above frost. After great floods, the surface of the lake has been known to rise about six feet higher than is usual after much drought in summer.

THE common people in the neighbourhood tell you, that Loch Lomond has long been famed for three wonders; *fish without fins, waves without wind, and a floating island*: though, upon examination, none of these, I believe, will be found strictly true. Dr. STUART observes, that vipers, which abound in many of the islands, and are so far amphibious as to swim from one to another, may probably be the fish without fins: and it is well known that a swelling wave, without any wind perceptible at the time, is by no means peculiar to this lake. It

* Stat. account of Luss.

occurs wherever there is any considerable extent of water, when calm weather soon succeeds a storm. The motion which has been given to the water by the wind, does not immediately cease, but the waves have a vibratory motion, like a pendulum, which will continue for a considerable time after the wind has subsided.

WHETHER Loch Lomond is subject to any of these agitations so remarkable in Keswick Lake, and which have been observed and described by Mr. CROSTHWAITE, I could not learn. According to Mr. CROSTHWAITE'S account, Keswick Lake is sometimes violently agitated during a calm season, by some unknown cause, and white breakers with large waves are perceptible. This phenomenon is called by the country people a bottom wind.* At the time of the remarkable earthquake at Lisbon, in 1755, the water of Loch Lomond rose very suddenly some feet above its former level;—then suddenly retiring, it sunk as much below it. The next flow and ebb, though still considerable, were less than the first; and gradually diminishing, after some hours the agitation subsided, and the surface of the lake again became perfectly calm.—A boat was found on the dry land, at the distance of more than forty yards from its station on the lake; and where the banks were low, the country was overflowed to a considerable extent. It is not unlikely that some phenomenon of this kind, observed at a remote period, may have been the wonder alluded to.

* Dalton's Meteorological Observations and Essays, p. 52.

WITH respect to the floating island, at present there are none possessed of this property. There is indeed a small island, near the west coast of Inch-Conagan, which is called the Floating Island; it is now however fixed; but that it may have once floated, is certainly credible. In that case Dr. STUART supposes, with great probability, that it must have been a mossy fragment detached by the waves from the neighbouring isle of Inch-Moan, and kept together by the matted roots of coarse grasses, willows, &c. But supposing that this island did formerly float, the phenomenon is not peculiar to Loch Lomond, for in Loch Dochart, a lake in Perthshire, is a floating island, about fifty-one feet in length, thirty in breadth, and from three to four feet in thickness; this island seems to have been formed by the intermixture of the roots and stems of aquatic plants. It is frequently driven before the wind, and may be pushed about with poles. Sometimes when it rests near the shore, the cattle, tempted by the verdure of its grass, venture upon it, and are often, by the sudden shifting of the wind, transported to the opposite side of the lake.* Whether islands of this kind were more common in ancient times, or whether the stories we have of them may be attributed to the credulity of those dark ages, is uncertain; but PLINY the younger mentions several, which he asserts to have seen moving about the Vadimonian, a lake of Etruria, in a very uncommon manner.†

* Pennant's Tour.

† Interdum junctæ, copulatæque, et continenti similes sunt. Interdum discordantibus ventis digeruntur. Nonnunquam destitutæ tranquillitate singulæ fluitant. Sæpe minores majoribus, velut cymbolæ ornerariæ, adherescunt. Sæpe inter se majores, minoresque quasi cursum, certamenque desumunt. Rursus omnes in eundem locum appulsæ. Plin. Epist. Lib. viii. Epist. 20.

BESIDES, as is observed by Mr. GILPIN, another kind of floating island has in former times been seen upon Loch Lomond, and has confounded the eye of the traveller: this was a sort of raft, which the inhabitants used to make of a considerable size, fastening the trunks of several pines together, and covering them with sods of earth. These rafts were useful on many occasions, but are now unknown, boats being much more manageable and commodious. But in early ages, the raft seems to have been the first species of lake navigation: on it the inhabitants transported their cattle, hay, or other bulky commodities, from one part of the lake to another. But the principal use of the raft was in times of alarm. When an adverse clan was laying waste the country, some poor man, on the borders of the lake, would shift his family and moveables on board a raft; and running under the lee of an island, would attach himself to it. His raft, at a distance, would appear a part of the island itself, and be perfectly concealed. In the mean time he would rear a low hut of boughs and heath against the oak to which he was moored; and would eat his oat-meal, the only provision he carried with him, mixed with the water of the lake till a time of security gave him liberty to return.*

THE natural woods growing on the banks of the lake, and islands, consist chiefly of oak, ash, birch, holly, mountain ash, hazel, aspen, alder, yew, hawthorn, and willows. The other indigenous plants are nearly the same as in different parts of the

* GILPIN'S Observations on several parts of Great Britain. Vol. ii. p. 28.

highlands, where soil and situation are similar. A few are to be found which are usually considered as rare.*

LOCH LOMOND abounds with delicious trout, and the southern part of it is much frequented by salmon, though this fish is not in general fond of lakes; but the salmon here come up the Leven, cross part of the lake, and find their way up the river Endrick, of which this fish is remarkably fond.

AFTER spending a considerable time on Inch-Tavanach, surveying the charming scenery around us, and obtaining information from our boatman, whom we found very intelligent, we embarked again; and having a fair wind, we sailed to the peninsula on which Rosdoe is situated, that Mr. Watts might take a sketch of it: the beautiful situation of this place has been already described.

HAVING finished the sketch, and surveyed the grounds about the house, we returned to Luss: On our way passed Camstradden Bay, where, at the distance of more than a hundred yards from the shore, our guide pointed out the ruins of some houses, below the surface of the water.

* Among the rare plants in this neighbourhood, are the *Isoetes lacustris*, or quill-wort; *Subularia aquatica*, or awl-wort; *Alisma ranunculoides*, or lesser water plantain; *Osmunda regalis*, or flowering fern; *lichen burgesii*, or crowned lichen, &c. Vide STUART'S Stat. Account.

THIS and other circumstances would seem to shew, that the water in the lake is considerably higher than it once was, and is therefore gaining upon the ground: and the following facts may be adduced as further evidence.

ACROSS the channel of the river Falloch, at the north end of the lake, there are stones fixed at regular distances, once evidently intended for enabling passengers to step from one side to the other, but now never covered with less than four or five feet of water. Besides the remains of these houses, already noticed in Camstradden Bay, about five miles farther south, at a distance from the shore, there is another heap of stones, said to be the ruins of a church; and a field opposite to it is still called *Ac-na-beaglais*, or the church field.*

CAMDEN also describes an island existing in his day, on which there was a house and an orchard. This was called the island of Camstradden, and was situated between Camstradden and Inch-Tavanach.† The island does not exist at present, but the ruins of the house which we saw in Camstradden Bay, may probably be the same mentioned by Camden.

THIS rise of the surface of the lake, is supposed to be occasioned by the vast quantities of stones and gravel that are continually brought down by the mountain torrents,‡ and likewise

* STUART'S Stat. Account of Luss.

† Atlas Britannica.

‡ PENNANT'S Tour, Part I. p. 177.

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Painted by W. H. Wood

Drawn by W. H. Wood

Look toward them, the hill above Sub.

by the sand and mud subsiding near the mouth of the Leven, and damming up the water.

AT the request of several proprietors, Mr. GOLBORNE made a survey of the lake in order to plan some relief from the encroachment of the water. He proposed to form a constant navigation down the Leven, by deepening the channel, and cutting through the neck of two of its great curvatures, which would give to the water a greater velocity. This, he observed, would not only enable the inhabitants in the environs of the lake to convey their slate, timber, bark, &c., to market at all times of the year, and bring up coal and other necessaries, but by lowering the surface of the lake, would recover some thousands of acres, now covered with water.

ON our return to Luss, we dined with our amiable and learned friend, Dr. STUART, who accompanied us, after dinner, to Strone Hill, just above the village, whence we had a delightful view of the lake and its islands. The evening was fine, the lake still, and a pleasing serenity pervaded the whole scene. Below us was the village of Luss, almost hid in trees, with its verdant points projecting into the lake. Inch-Tavanach, and most of the other islands are seen to great advantage, and in the distance are part of the Grampian mountains, which form a very fine background. The obelisk erected to the memory of BUCHANNAN may be likewise seen distinctly.

ENVIRONS OF

SOME of the islands of this little Archipelago consist chiefly of green pasture ground, broken here and there by darker patches of wood; others display steep and rugged hills, clothed with trees, from their summits to the water's edge; their tops thickly tufted, and forming shades impervious to the sun.

A MORE charming situation than the environs of Loch Lomond exists not perhaps in Britain; and though near the southern extremity of the lake there are some elegant villas, yet it seems a little surprising that they are not more numerous, and that the neighbourhood of Luss, and many of the islands, should not be embellished with seats of gentlemen, and opulent merchants.*

* There are indeed many inducements to reside in this neighbourhood, provided pieces of ground can be procured either by purchase or on lease. The climate is mild and temperate; snow seldom lies many days in the low grounds; the mountains and woods break the force of the winds in every direction, and the air, though often moist, is remarkably healthful. Many of the people live to a great age, and are seldom afflicted with diseases. In proof of the healthiness of the neighbourhood, I shall subjoin two lists of persons living in the small village of Luss; the first drawn up in 1769, and inserted by Mr. PENNANT in his tour; and the second in 1793, taken from Dr. STUART'S Statistical Report.

1769,		AGE	1793,		AGE
Rev. J. Robertson, minister	-	90	Hector Maclean	-	91
Mrs. Robertson, his wife	-	86	Mary Macfarlane	-	88
Ann Sharp, their servant	-	94	Janet Walker	-	84
Neil M'Naughton, kirk officer	-	86	Elizabeth M'Wattie	-	81
Christian, his wife	-	94	Margaret M'Gregor	-	80
Walter Maclellan	-	90	Duncan Gray	-	78

There is one woman in the parish aged 97.

What a place, as Dr. Johnson observes, would this be, in the environs of London? The greatest ambition of the rich would be, to possess an island, and ornament it. Even situated as it is, the mind when contemplating scenery so enchanting, fondly paints to itself a society of kindred spirits, inhabiting its happy isles, enjoying among each other, the "feast of reason and the flow of soul." Such an imaginary society is so beautifully described by the elegant pen of GILPIN, that I cannot refrain from giving it in his own words:—

"IN a reverie, we may conceive the happiness of a few philosophical friends, retiring from the follies of life, to such a scene as this; and settling themselves in the several islands that are scattered about the lake before us. Their happiness would consist in the refined pleasures of intercourse and solitude. The visionary does not consider the many economical difficulties and inconveniences of a plan. All these things are below his notice. He enjoys in idea the pleasures of a refined and virtuous society. He feasts on the agreeable expectation that would arise at the sight of a sail making to his little retreat, which he would know was fraught with wit—or classic elegance—or the refinement of taste—or philosophy—or the charms of unaffected piety. The contents of the cargo would be known at a distance, by the direction in which the vessel came.—Not would the hours of solitude pass with less delight. However pleasing the charms of converse, each member of this virtuous

and happy society would still be his own best companion. He who wants resources within himself, can never find happiness abroad.

“ AMONG the amusements of this happy people, it would not be the least to improve their little territories into scenes of simplicity and beauty—academic groves—Elysian fields;

Where they, whom wisdom, and whom nature charm,
Stealing themselves from the degen'rate croud,
May sooth the throbbing passions into peace,
And woo lone quiet in her silent walks.

“ EVEN the dreariness of winter would not want its enjoyments. Winter is the reign of domestic pleasures; and if the storms of the lake forbad the adventitious intercourse of agreeable society, they would at least remove the impertinent intrusions of what was not so. The intrusions of the tattling world would be totally excluded; while books, and elegant amusements, would be a sovereign antidote against the howling of winds, and beating of waves.”

NOT being able to procure beds at the inn at Luss, and intending to visit Benlomond the next morning, should the weather prove favourable, we were advised to go over the lake to Rowardennan, a small inn, situated at the foot of the mountain. We rode about four miles along the road from Luss to Tarbet,

to a hamlet called Inveruglas, where is a ferry; and leaving our horses at the house of the ferryman, we walked down to the side of the lake, which was about a quarter of a mile distant. On our arrival there, we found the boat at some distance from the shore, on the other side of a sand bank; and as we did not seem to relish the idea of wetting ourselves, the two boys who were to ferry us over, one of whom might be about fourteen, and the other sixteen years of age, proposed to carry us to the boat on their backs. While I was considering whether this was said in jest or earnest, the eldest took me up, and carried me without difficulty to the boat. The other had got both our saddle bags, which were very well filled and heavy, and was taking them, as I imagined, for his share of the burthen; but, to our mutual astonishment, he, thus loaded, made towards my friend, and mounting him on his back, ran with him and bags to the boat with much agility.

THE lake at this place, is little more than a mile in breadth. When we left Luss, its surface was calm, but the wind having risen in the mean time, we found the water very rough and agitated, and it was not without some difficulty that we were landed on a rock on the other side, from which we found our way to the little retired inn.

WE soon perceived, from the attention and civility of our host and his family, that we had no reason to regret the want of beds at Luss. It was about nine o'clock in the evening when

we arrived at Rowardennan. We asked for supper and were told that some of the family were gone out to fish for us; and in a very short time we were presented with some delicious trout just taken out of the lake.

HAVING breakfasted early the next morning, and the appearance of the weather being favourable, we set out for the top of Benlomond, accompanied by a son of our landlord, a civil and intelligent young man, who serves as a guide to those that visit the mountain. He took with him some biscuits, and a bottle of whisky, a precaution absolutely necessary to enable a person to climb a steep ascent of six miles. We consumed near three hours in ascending, as I wished to examine the vegetable productions in our way. When we had got about five miles up the side, which is two thirds of the way, we saw clouds floating below us on the lake, which sometimes obscured a great part of its surface; and we several times found ourselves, involved in light fleecy clouds, which however did not feel sensibly damp.

AT length we gained the summit, and were fortunate in finding scarce a cloud within our extensive horizon. The view from the mountain is beyond conception grand and interesting; at the bottom is seen the beautiful lake, stretched out like a map, its islands having lost their rugged forms, and appearing as flat surfaces amid the bright expanse. The banks of the lake are seen ornamented with gentlemen's seats and cultivated

grounds. Looking toward the east, the rich plains of Lothian and Stirlingshire are distinctly spread out to the sight: casting our eyes from thence to the south, and pursuing the view towards the west, the high grounds of Lanerkshire, the vales of Renfrewshire, with the Firth of Clyde, and the wide Atlantic with its islands, are clearly discerned; while the Isle of Man and the coast of Ireland, blend as it were with the sky, being scarcely discernible. But to one unaccustomed to highland scenery, the most striking view is undoubtedly on the north side, which may with truth be termed horribly or fearfully sublime. The eye, from where it first discerns the Ochil Hills, near the east, ranging along the north till it comes near the Western Ocean, sees nothing but mountain upon mountain, elevating their summits in almost every variety of shape. In this stupendous range, our guide pointed out to us Benevis, the highest hill in Britain, Benlawers, Benvorlich, and Cruachan to the north; and to the south-west, Goatfield, a high hill in the isle of Arran, and the Paps of Jura. To the north-east, in the vallies between the mountains, we perceived several of the lakes in Perthshire like embossed mirrors. Among these were Loch Catharine, Lochard, and Loch Monteith.

FROM the north side of Benlomond, springs the famous Forth; here an inconsiderable rill, that a child might step over: very soon, however, the torrents, constantly pouring down from the mountains, increase it to the size of a small brook, which winds its way through the valley, now and then expanding into

a little lake. What is remarkable in this river, is, that even at its origin it winds just in the same manner, as, when become more majestic, it passes through the Carse of Stirling.

IN contemplating the origin of this noble river from the mountain, the mind is instantly compelled to acknowledge and admire the wonderful, yet simple, way in which the continual distillation of the watery element, so useful in all manner of life, is carried on in the immense laboratory of nature. The vapour which rises from the ocean, and from the earth, as well as from the surfaces of lakes and rivers, is at first invisible, and perfectly transparent, but getting into the superior and colder regions of the atmosphere, it is condensed into clouds, which either suddenly losing some of their heat, or the atmosphere becoming lighter, fall in showers of rain.

THE origin of rivers is however almost always in mountainous countries: the cold summits of the mountains constantly arresting the clouds in their course, form the grand refrigeratories of nature, down whose sides the condensed vapours trickle in innumerable rills. In all hilly countries, numerous little fountains are found to issue from the sides of the hills; some of which flow continually, from their channels being probably deeper, while others only flow after rains; but the coldness on the tops of mountains is such, that they are generally covered with mists, and thus afford a constant supply of water to the springs; at the bottoms of the hills, the

small currents from several of these fountains meet together, and form numerous little rills, which rills descending, continually unite with others, and form brooks: the union of brooks produces rivulets, and these, by joining their waters, form rivers which move majestically along, receiving in their course new tributes from the rivulets of the adjacent country, which they return to their parent ocean, from whence this water is again evaporated, forms clouds, is again condensed, and thus produces a continual circulation.*

THE north side of the mountain is very steep; in one part is a dreadful precipice, more than three hundred fathoms deep; and firm must be the nerves of him who can look down unmoved. On approaching it, we were instantly reminded of SHAKESPEARE'S striking description of the cliffs of Dover;

How fearful

And dizzy 'tis, to cast one's eyes so low!
The crows, and choughs, that wing the midway air,
Show scarce so gross as beetles.

* This theory of the formation of springs and rivers may be illustrated by bringing a bottle filled with water, or any other liquor, from a cold cellar in summer, into a warm room, loaded with vapour from the breaths of a number of people. The coldness of the bottle depriving part of the air in contact with it of its heat, the vapour will be condensed upon the surface of the glass in the form of a very fine dew; the particles of which uniting and accumulating, trickle down the sides in little streams, which join together, and form larger. The bottle may here be compared to a mountain, rearing its cold summit among the clouds.

We were not long permitted to indulge in the contemplation of the sublime scenery around us; we had scarce been half an hour on the summit of the mountain, when we saw clouds rolling majestically far below us; now covering the surface of the lake, and now hiding the surrounding mountains; dark streams of rain poured down from them into the valleys, and the whole formed as sublime a scene as is possible to contemplate, unless when in addition you see the lightning's flash, and hear the thunder roll under your feet; which not unfrequently is the case. In a short time the air, which had been comfortably warm, became suddenly chill; a dark black cloud from the western mountains came slowly towards us, and in a few minutes began to precipitate upon us its contents, in the form of hail, sleet, and heavy rain. We sheltered ourselves as well as we could under the shelvings of some rocks, but still were completely wet. The cold grew intense, and I wished that I had taken a thermometer with me, to have ascertained the degree of it. When the storm was over, we descended by a route somewhat different, with a view of botanizing. While on the top of the mountain, we observed that the rain which came down in perpendicular streams from the clouds, went along the valleys, following in general their several windings among the hills; the clouds most probably being driven in those directions in which the current of air met with the least impediments, which would certainly be along the valleys.

ON our return to Rowardennen, we found that a great deal of rain had fallen during our absence.

THE perpendicular height of Benlomond above the surface of the lake, is 3,240 feet; and the average height of the lake above the level of the sea 22 feet, which, added to the former height, gives the perpendicular altitude of the mountain above the level of the sea, 3,262 feet. In height it is surpassed by Benevis, Benlawers, and some other mountains; but the difference is more than compensated by the elegance of its insulated situation, with respect to the neighbouring hills: its form being that of a huge truncated cone, and its appearance, from whatever part it is viewed, much more noble and magnificent than that of the just mentioned hills. The lower parts of the mountain, on the side next the lake, are finely skirted with wood.

IN the summer months, this mountain is visited by strangers from every quarter of the island, as well as foreigners, who come to view the romantic scenery of the highlands; the month of September is in general accounted the best for ascending it, because from the cool temperature of the air, the horizon is less clouded by vapours than during the more intense heats of summer.* Those who wish to visit the mountain, may either take a boat from Luss to Rowardennen, or cross over from Inveruglas, or be ferried over from Tarbet, an inn a few miles higher up the lake. On a pane of glass, in the window of this

* Ross's Guide.

last mentioned inn, some verses were written by an English gentleman who had ascended Benlomond, and was probably afterwards confined at Tarbet by rain. Though these verses have been copied into almost every guide and tour, yet as they contain some very good advice and instruction to those who wish to ascend the mountain, and at the same time possess a considerable share of merit, I shall take the liberty of presenting them to my readers.

STRANGER ! if o'er this pane of glass perchance
 Thy roving eye should cast a casual glance:
 If taste for grandeur, and the dread sublime,
 Prompt thee Benlomond's fearful height to climb:
 Here stop attentive, nor with scorn refuse
 The friendly rhymings of a tavern muse;
 For thee the muse this rude inscription plann'd,
 Prompted for thee her humble poet's hand.
 Heed thou the poet; he thy steps shall lead,
 Safe o'er yon tow'ring hill's aspiring head:
 Attentive then to this informing lay,
 Read how he dictates, as he points the way.
 Trust not at first a quick advent'rous pace;
Six miles its top points gradual from the base.
 Up the high rise with panting haste I pass'd,
 And gain'd the long laborious steep at last.
 More prudent thou, when once you pass the deep,
 With measur'd pace, and slow ascend the steep,

Oft stay thy steps, oft taste the cordial drop,
 And rest, oh! rest, long, long upon the top.
 There hail the breezes, nor with toilsome haste,
 Down the rough slope thy precious vigour waste;
 So shall thy wond'ring sight at once survey,
 Vales, lakes, woods, mountains, islands, rocks, and sea;
 Huge hills, that heap'd in crowded order stand,
 Stretch'd o'er the northern and the western land;
 Vast lumpy groups! while Ben, who oftén shrouds
 His lofty summit in a veil of clouds,
 High o'er the rest displays superior state,
 In proud pre-eminence, sublimely great.
 One side, all awful, to th' astonished eye
 Presents a steep three hundred fathoms high.
 The scene tremendous, shocks the startled sense,
 In all the pomp of dread magnificence.
 All this, and more shalt thou transported see,
 And own a faithful monitor in me.

THOMAS RUSSELL, Oct. 3, 1771.

BENLOMOND is chiefly composed of granite, interspersed with great quantities of quartz. This last mineral is found near the top, in immense masses, some of which must weigh several tons; these appear like patches of snow upon the mountain, even when seen from Luss. Considerable quantities of micaceous schistus are found, even at the top, and many rocks to-

wards the base of the mountain, are entirely composed of this mineral.

PLOVERS abound near the middle of the mountain, grouse a little higher, and near the top we saw some ptarmigans, which were remarkably tame.

To the botanist, Benlomond affords a fund of great amusement; as we ascend, we find the plants we had left below assume a very different appearance, and some very rare and beautiful species are found in abundance.*

* The *Alchemilla alpina*, or cinquefoil ladies mantle, grows upon all the upper part of the mountain. The *Sibbaldia procumbens*, or procumbent silver-weed, distinguished by its tridentate leaves, grows in great quantity, even on the very summit. The *Silene acaulis*, or moss catchfly, the leaves of which form a beautiful green turf, like a carpet, which is variegated with a fine purple flower, grows in large patches. The *Rubus chamaemorus*, or cloud-berry, is found in great quantities, about half way up the south-east side of the mountain: the blossoms of this plant are of a purplish white, succeeded by a bunch of red berries, which are ripe in July, and have a flavour by no means unpleasant. These berries are much esteemed by many northern nations, but probably for want of finer fruits. The Laplanders bury them under the snow, and thus preserve them fresh from one year to another. They bruise and eat them with the milk of the rein-deer. (Withering's Botany.) The *Azalea procumbens*, or trailing rosebay, the smallest of woody plants, was first found here by Dr. Stuart, of Luss, but is not very plentiful. The *Trientalis Europaea*, or chickweed-wintergreen, the only British plant of the class Heptandria, grows in the woods near the base of the mountain. The *Pinguicula vulgaris*; *Narthecium ossifragum*; and *Thymus acinos*, likewise abound. Very near the inn of Rowardennan, are to be found great quantities of the *Drosera rotundifolia*, or round-leaved sundew, and *Drosera Anglica*, or great sundew. These plants catch flies, by shutting up their leaves, and crushing

THE shores of Loch Lomond are covered with rounded pebbles, composed chiefly of quartz, granite, and micaceous schistus, with some coarse red jasper, agreeable to the composition of the adjacent mountains, from which they have been washed by rivulets, and polished by the waves of the lake.

BENLOMOND, and the adjoining lands, extending about eight miles along the east side of Loch Lomond, which estate is called Craigrostan, was formerly the property of Rob Roy Macgregor, a famous free-booter, concerning whom several curious anecdotes were related to us. He lived for some time upon his estate, probably with as much honesty as his neighbours, for honesty and peaceable deportment were not virtues of those times. It happened that he, and one Macdonald, borrowed a considerable sum of money from their neighbour, the Duke of Montrose, for the purchase of cattle; the whole, or greatest part of which, Macdonald got possession of, and fled. When the money became due, Rob Roy was unable to pay it; in consequence of which the Duke seized on the lands of Craigrostan, and settled other tenants upon the farms. Rob Roy being thus driven from the inheritance of his forefathers, vowed revenge. He caused a report to be spread, that he was gone to Ireland, but retired to a cave on the edge of the lake, at the foot of Benlomond, several miles above Rowardennen, where he

them to death; in this they resemble the *Dionæa muscipula*, or American fly-eater. For a more particular account of the Drosera, see Withering's Botany, vol. ii. p. 325.

lived with a party of trusty young fellows, most of them his tenants or vassals, and who were therefore warmly attached to him, and interested in his motives of revenge. Here he waited for a proper opportunity of executing the vengeance he had vowed.

THE time arrived, when the Duke's factor came to collect the rents of Craigrostan; Rob Roy being informed of this went with his party to Chapel-Leroch, where the factor lodged, forced him to deliver the money, for which he gave him a formal receipt.

AFTER committing this robbery, which was in the year 1716, he went into Argyleshire, where he was patronized by the Duke of Argyle. On hearing this, the Duke of Montrose remonstrated with his Grace of Argyle, who sent for Rob Roy, and requested him to leave the country. He thereupon desired the Duke to inform Montrose, that though he (the Duke of Argyle) gave him a lodging, his Grace of Montrose fed him. In fact, he continually sent out parties of his followers, who took corn, meal, and cattle, from the Duke and his tenants, whom he laid under regular contributions, requiring them to pay what was called *black-mail*, for the security of their property.*

* The following copy of an order from the Justices of Peace, met in Quarter Session at Stirling, taken verbatim by the minister of Strathblane, from the original

THE following anecdote is likewise related of him: One of the Duke's tenants being unable to pay his rent, the factor had ordered his cattle to be seized; ROB ROY hearing this, sent him money to pay his rent, but way-laid the factor, took it from him, and afterwards presented it to the poor man.

manuscript sent at that time to be published in the church of Strathblane, will shew the manner in which he laid the country under contribution, as well as the impotence of the laws, even at that time.

“ At Stirling, in ane Quarter Session, held be the Justices of his Highness Peace, upon the 3d day of February, 1658-9. The Laird of Touch being Chyrsman.

“ Upon reading of ane petition given in by Captaine M'Gregor, makand mention that several heritors and inhabitants of the paroches of Campsie, Dennie, Baldernock, Strablane, Killearn, Gargunnoch, and uthers within the Sherrifdom of Stirling, did agrie with him to oversee and preserve thair houses, goods and gear, frae oppressioun, and accordinglie did pay him: and now that sum persones delay to maik payment: thairfore it is ordered, that all heritors and inhabitants of the paroches aforesaid, maik payment to the said Captaine M'Gregor, of thair proportionnes, for his said service, till the first of February last past, without delay. All constables in the several paroches, are heirby commandit to see this order put in executionne, as they sall answer to the contrair. It is also heirby declared, that all who have been ingadgit in payment, sall be liberat after such tyme that they goe to Captaine M'Gregor, and declare to him that they are not to expect any service frae him, or he expect any payment frae them. Just Copie, extracted be

James Stirling, Clk. of the Peace.

For Archibald Edmonstoune, Bailzie of Duntreath,

to be published at the Kirk of Strablane.”——Stat. Account of Strablane.

In the Statistical Account of Campsie, it is likewise observed, that the father of the present minister of Campsie, Mr. Lapsie, paid *black-mail* to M'Gregor, so late as 1744. Macgregor on his part engaging to secure him from suffering by any *hardship*, as it was termed. Mr. Lapsie having fifteen sheep stolen about the commencement of the year 1745, M'Gregor had actually taken measures to have their value restored, when the rebellion broke out, and the measures that were afterwards taken, put an end to the farther payment of *black-mail*, and to M'Gregor's selfcreated wardenship of the highland borders.—Stat Account of Campsie.

In general, it is said, he robbed only the rich, but was humane and charitable to the poor. In his manners and character, he seems very much to have resembled the celebrated English freebooter, ROBIN HOOD; for an account of whose life, see HARGROVE'S Anecdotes of Archery.

ON the 12th of July, early in the morning, we left our little retired inn of Rowardennan, and not without regret; we met here, it is true, with homely fare, such as would have afforded no delight to an epicure, but we were treated with attention and civility, and supplied with the best their situation could afford. We likewise regretted that this day's journey would take us from scenes, which we had beheld with so much pleasure and satisfaction.

WE were ferried over the lake to Inveruglas, from whence we pursued the road towards Tarbet, which is by no means so good as that from Dumbarton to Luss, being full of uneasy ascents and descents. The country is nevertheless well wooded and romantic, affording very fine views of the lake and northern mountains, particularly from the Point of Farkin, about a mile from Inveruglas. Looking back from this promontory, we took our last view of the lake and its islands, which appear under a more sublime point of view, on account of the vicinity of the northern mountains. We staid here for some time, riveted as it were to the spot, nor did we quit these charming

scenes without casting many a "longing lingering look behind."

WHEN we arrived at Tarbet,* about four miles from Inveruglas, where is a decent looking inn, we turned to the left, and crossed a narrow isthmus, about a mile and a half broad, along a shady lane and good road, with lofty mountains on each side: this road conducted us to the inn at Arroquhar,† near the head of Loch Loung.‡

IT is one of the most spacious and commodious inns in Scotland, and was formerly the residence of the chief of the clan of MACFARLANE, but a few years since was purchased by Mr. FERGUSON of Raith. The Duke of Argyle obtained a lease of it from this gentleman, and making considerable additions to the original buildings, converted it into an inn; it is now a very convenient stage to his Grace, in his way to and from Inverary.

THE situation of Arroquhar is very romantic, it commands a fine view of the Loch, is enveloped in woods, and surrounded by lofty mountains. From one of the windows, they point out to you, at the top of a rugged mountain, on the other side of

* Tarbet signifies an isthmus, or narrow tract of land between two waters: it is a name frequent in the highlands.

† Arroquhar is a Celtic word, signifying a high or hilly country; this name is very descriptive of its situation in the midst of hills and mountains.

‡ Loch Loung signifies the lake of ships; the Norwegians called it Skipafjord, which in their language has the same signification.—Pennant's Tour.

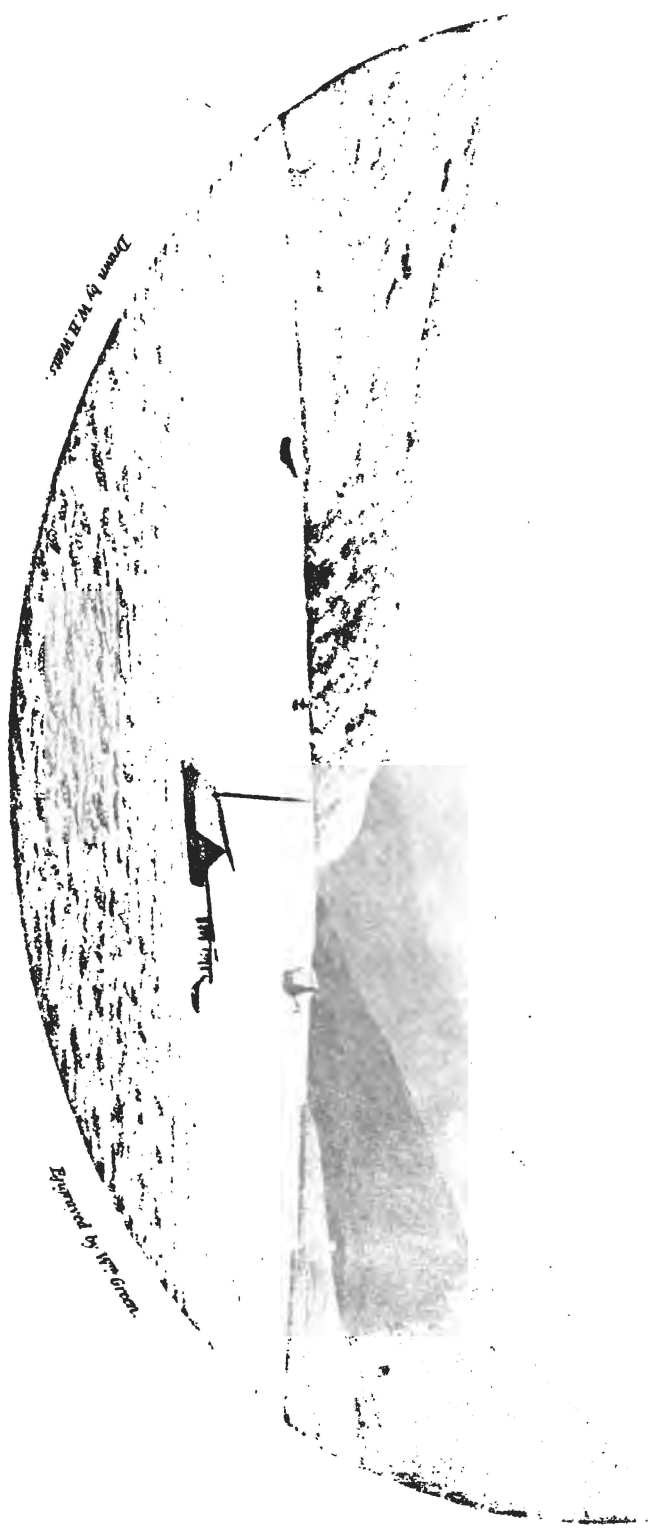
the Loch, a grotesque piece of rock, part of which bears some resemblance to the figure of a cobbler in a working attitude upon his stall.

LOCH LOUNG is not properly a lake, but a narrow arm of the sea, which runs from the Western Ocean, a considerable way to the northward. Such arms of the sea, which in this country are very numerous, are called Lochs, and indeed possess many of the beauties of fresh-water lakes, besides the additional circumstance of the water being always in motion, from the flux and reflux of the tide.

WE breakfasted at Arrochar, and afterwards took a walk along the banks of the Loch, where the view is very interesting, the lake being confined by fine hills, sloping gradually into it, and some of them on the left, beautifully wooded. The back ground is closed by rugged mountains, softened by distance. On the opposite side, on a flat piece of ground, formed by a rivulet running into the Loch, is Ardgarten, the property of General CAMPBELL of Strachur, and the residence of Mr. CAMPBELL of Ormadale; pleasantly situated, and surrounded with wood. The scene was enlivened by some herring boats, which Mr. Watts has represented in the view, but of which a more particular account will be given in the description of Loch Fyne.

SHOALS of herring frequent this loch, and afford occupation to a number of fishermen: at present there were very few boats,

1871
Fish. Survey.



Drawn by W. B. Miles.

Examined by W. B. Miles.

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and these were preparing to set out for Loch Fyne, where the herring fishery was just beginning. The other fish which frequent Loch Lough, are cod, haddocks, whittings, flounders, mackarel, trout, and sometimes salmon; but no person in the neighbourhood, except a very few individuals, pays attention to any other fishery than that of herrings. Each man employed in the herring fishery on this loch, clears on an average 8% or 10% between the month of September and the first of January, besides laying up a sufficient quantity of herring for their winter food.

THE depth of water in Loch Lough, is from 40 to 80 fathoms. The pebbles on the shore are quartz, granite, micaceous schistus, and red jasper; which show the composition of the surrounding mountains to be nearly the same as those in the neighbourhood of Loch Lomond; there are, however, greater quantities of red jasper among the pebbles of Loch Lough.*

ABOUT the middle of the thirteenth century, Haco king of Norway, sent a fleet consisting of sixty sail up Loch Lough; the crews of which landed, and ravaged the country round Loch Lomond, taking away the cattle and other movables to their ships.†

* On the banks of the lake, and very near the inn, the *Cutubulus beben*, or bladder campion, and the *Sedum album*, or white-flowered stone-crop, grow in considerable quantity.

† Torfæus Hist. Orcad.

LEAVING Arroquhar, we proceeded round the head of Loch Loung, and rode near two miles on its northern banks: on our right we had steep mountains and rugged rocks, the latter of which were chiefly composed of micaceous schistus, shining like silver, beautifully undulated, and in some places imbedded with quartz. At about two miles distance from Arroquhar, we passed Ardgarten, which we had seen from the other side of the lake, and entered a deep and wide glen on the right; this was Glencroe, which forms one of the passes into the highlands. Tarbet and Arroquhar, as well as Rowardenan, are said to be in the highlands, and the inhabitants speak Gaelic, which is called the highland language; yet still the features of the highland country, which are perfectly different from the southern parts of Scotland, do not begin till we enter Glencroe on the west, or Killi-cranky on the east side of the kingdom. These passes seem the natural boundaries of the bold and rugged hills which characterize the northern part of Scotland.

THE scenery of Glencroe is sublime in the highest degree; on each side are mountains, the most steep and rugged imaginable, with rocks of every shape hanging on their sides: many have fallen into the bottom of the glen, while others seem to threaten the traveller with instant destruction. In some parts, the craggy tops of the mountains appeared almost to meet over our heads; in others the valley opened, and here and there the sides of it exhibited patches of vegetation, covered with sheep. Down the middle of the glen runs a considerable

brook, near which the road is carried; this brook is formed by hundreds of little rills, that tumble, in the form of cascades, from the mountains on both sides; the glen is almost constantly deluged with rain; the high mountains arrest the clouds brought from the Atlantic by the westerly winds, which almost constantly blow here from that quarter.

THE rocks consist almost entirely of micaceous schistus, sometimes imbedded with quartz; but besides these substances, which are likewise found in the brook, in the form of rounded pebbles, there are considerable numbers of granite pebbles, which are, in general, rounded by friction, and must have been washed from some of the deeper parts of the hills; for this rivulet takes its rise in the glen, and it is not easy to see by what means these granite pebbles should otherwise have been brought into it. I found some of the pebbles of micaceous schistus, full of crystals of shorl.

THERE are a few miserable cottages in Glencroe inhabited by the shepherds. These shepherds are the servants of the opulent tenants, who are dispersed in different parts of the farms; for since the introduction of sheep, on an extensive scale, into this country, several small farms have been thrown into one large one. This has undoubtedly enhanced the incomes of the proprietors, who let as much ground to one man as he can stock; but has contributed to depopulate the country. The shepherds, as I observed before, are the servants of the tenants;

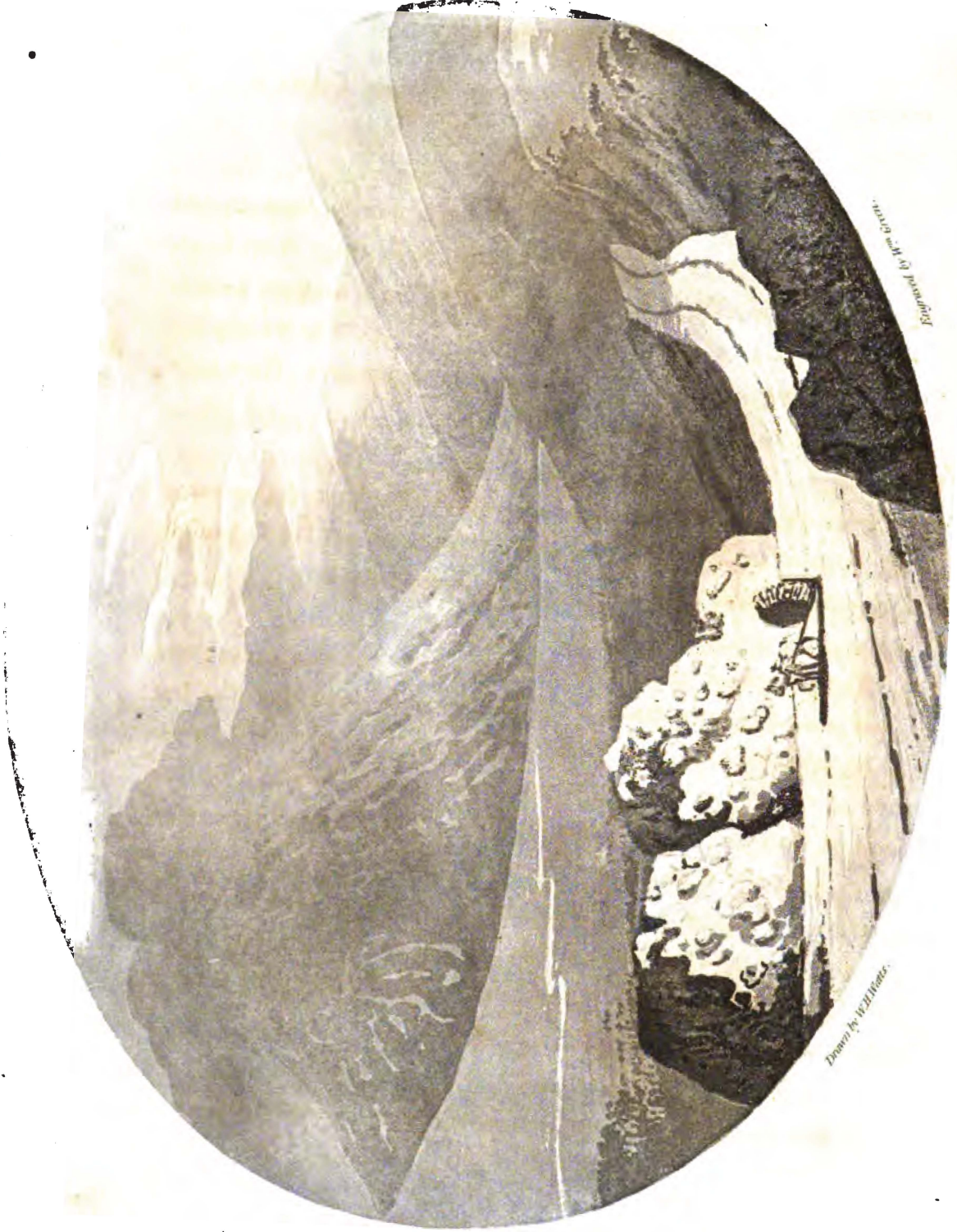
GLENCROE.

their allowance is a cottage, fifty stone of oatmeal, grass for two cows, a little ground for potatoes, and the liberty of pasturing a few sheep with their master's flock. The value of all these advantages may be equal to about 14/. or 15/. sterling per annum.*

WITH this they often manage to support a large family, who, when they grow up, are for the most part forced to leave their native country to seek a livelihood. We called at one of these cottages to ask some questions; the poor woman had eight children, supported by the industry of the husband, and clothed by herself; for very generally, in the highlands, the clothing is manufactured at home. Many of them have a little patch of oats growing near the cottage, in lieu of the allowance of meal. Potatoes grow here extremely well, and the proprietors and opulent tenants ought to encourage the cultivation of them, by supplying the shepherds and sub-tenants with proper seed. Before the introduction of this useful root, the highlands used often to be visited by famine. Wet weather frequently disappointed the hopes of the inhabitants; their corn was rotted on the ground, and distress, such as people in the southern part of the island can form no idea of, was the consequence. If the cultivation of the potatoe be attended to, they can no longer dread absolute want, as it is but little affected by wet, at least comparatively. Besides that, its preparation for food is so much more simple and easy than corn, which must undergo the operations of

* Stat. account of Arrochar.

ARTS & CRAFTS
TILDA



made with 40 pounds

Drawn by W. J. Hoads

(Albany)

reaping, drying, thrashing, grinding, and baking, before it be fit for use.

THE lives of these people are very simple,—milk, oatmeal, and potatoes with fish caught in the stream, or herrings from Loch Loung, or Loch Fyne, and now and then a little mutton, constitute their food, and they contrive to sell a few sheep to buy the little raiment which they do not make for themselves. How little does mankind really want!

It is asserted,* that though the sheep farms have depopulated the countries where they have been introduced, yet the shepherds live more comfortably than the petty farmers used.

THE length of this glen is between four and five miles: the road ascends gently through the whole of it, excepting the last mile, where it is very steep, and carried in a zig-zag form to the top of the hill. There is a seat, and a stone inscribed "Rest and be thankful," placed here by the twenty-second regiment, who made the road. Here we rested while Mr. Watts drew a sketch of the glen, and I was thankful when he had finished it, for it rained all the time. From the annexed view, a good idea of this glen may be formed, and the winding of the road through it, distinctly seen.*

* Near this seat I found the elegant *parnassia palustris* and *pinguicula vulgaris*,

EMERGING from Glencroe, but still surrounded by steep hills, we passed a small lake called Loch Rest, which empties itself by a furious little rivulet that falls in cataracts into another glen, called Glen-Kinlas; into which we descended, and travelled through it many a weary mile. Arriving at the bottom of the valley, we crossed a bridge where the glen turns to the left, making nearly a right angle with its former direction. This glen is much less grand than Glencroe: it consists of high mountains, whose tops are by no means so rugged, but from which many hundred little streams fall into the river that accompanies the road. Towards the end of the glen, it begins to look more beautiful, the sides being in some degree clothed with wood.

ON emerging from Glen-Kinlas, we had a view of Loch Fyne, an extensive and beautiful arm of the sea, being more than thirty miles in length. We continued our route towards the Loch, leaving the house and grounds of Ardkinlass, the residence of Sir ALEXANDER CAMPBELL, on our left, and came to Cairndow, situated near the head of Loch Fyne.

HERE we dined; and after dinner visited Ardkinlass.* The ground possesses every advantage from nature, lying close to the beautiful lake; it has some large trees on it, and might be

* Ardkinlass, probably *Aird a'choingblais*, the residence of the gray dog. The great extent of plain ground round Ardkinlass, permitted the proprietors to indulge in the pleasures of the chace, the favourite amusement of the times. Stat. Report.

easily ornamented. The house is new, large, and convenient, but the architecture by no means elegant. The old castle of Ardkinlass, a large and venerable pile of ruins, has been entirely demolished to make way for offices, a circumstance surely to be regretted by the lovers of picturesque scenery.

AFTER seeing this place, we turned round the head of the Loch, the shore of which abounds with rounded pebbles,* and rode down the other side, close to the water, having several beautiful views all the way to Inverary, a distance of ten miles from Cairndow. The sides of this lake are skirted with noble mountains, which are entirely naked, and would require a considerable quantity of wood to render them beautiful. But, as Mr. Gilpin justly observes, what they lose in beauty, they gain in grandeur.

ABOUT four miles before we reached Inverary, we passed the castle of Dunduramh,† situated upon a low peninsula, and surrounded by lofty trees. It consists of a large, strong tower of an irregular figure, with small turrets above the angles in the wall. It is the property of the Ardkinlass family.‡

* These pebbles consist chiefly of a beautiful granite, in which the grains of felspar are particularly large. Most of the walls in the neighbourhood of Cairndow are built with this granite, which is brought from the neighbouring hills.

† *Don-Duramb* signifies the fort of the two oars. This castle being built close to the sea, and the access to it by land being in these times very bad, the most frequent communication would probably be by boats.

‡ Above the gate of the castle is the following inscription:

1596

J · MAN · BEHOLD · THE · END · OF · ALL · BENOUGHT ·
WISER · THAN · THE · HIESTES · I · TRUST · IN · GOD ·

INVERARY.

As we proceeded on our journey, the lake grew wider, extending towards the right: the view began gradually to open, and on passing a steep hill on our right, a most enchanting landscape burst upon us.

THE lake here appears a large bay, round which are ranged the beautiful plantations of the Duke of Argyle, covering the ground to a vast extent, from the lake to the summits of the highest mountains. The castle rearing its towers above the woods has a very picturesque effect, to the south-east of which, and close to the bay, appears the town of Inverary, in an uniform line of handsome buildings. On the right is a fine view of Dunicoich, a steep hill, 700 feet perpendicular, covered with wood almost to the summit, which is crowned with an old watch tower.

THOUGH the preceding part of the day had been wet, the evening was remarkably clear and serene; the sun had set, and the feeble rays of twilight reflected by the landscape, gave to it a most captivating softness, and just that indistinctness which is pleasing. We had this delightful scenery in view for near an hour, and when we arrived at the inn, the whole had almost faded from the sight.

THE inn at Inverary is very large and commodious, and we found the attention and accommodations tolerable, though I must confess they did not entirely correspond with the exterior.

JULY 13th. After an early breakfast, we called upon Mr. M'GIBBON, to whom I had a letter of introduction: his son walked with us through the Duke's grounds. The first object that attracted our attention was the castle: this magnificent building stands upon a gentle rise, and is surrounded by a spacious area, bounded by an amphitheatre of mountains, some of which are rugged and broken, others entirely covered with wood. One of these mountains is Dunicoich, formerly noticed. It is covered with wood, excepting where the rugged rocks project through the trees, and add greatly to its grandeur: on its top stands a lonely watch tower, which, like every thing useful or characteristic, has a good effect. Had this hill been crowned with an ornamental building, the effect would have been absurd; and yet we saw a plan which had been proposed for ornamenting this hill with ramparts and bastions, which, if executed, would entirely have destroyed its simplicity and grandeur. Through the lawn before the castle, the Arey, a fine and rapid river, runs into the loch.

LOCH FYNE is the glory of the scene; it spreads out into a noble bay before the front of the castle; forming an irregular circle of about twelve or fourteen miles in circumference, beautifully indented with a variety of peninsulas, and surrounded by mountains. It is, as Mr. Gilpin says, an object not only beautiful in itself, but it makes a fine contrast with the woods and mountains around it.

INVERARY CASTLE.

THE house of Inverary, though by no means an old building, is built in the form of a castle, seemingly upon the plan of the mansions of some of the German nobility. It is a square building, with a tower at each corner, and a high glazed pavilion shooting up above the towers from the centre of the roof, which gives the whole an appearance well suited to the scene. This noble mansion relies on its own merits and its situation to attract the attention of the stranger. It presents no white or splendid colour to the eye, forming an ostentatious contrast to the shady groves which surround it; but its grey sombre hue harmonizes with the scene, and gives an air of tranquillity and dignity to the whole.

IT is built of a kind of *lapis ollaris*, brought from the opposite side of the Loch, a stone that will, in all probability, long stand the effects of the weather, but which is extremely soft, and wears with friction: the stone steps at the entrances are very much worn. This stone is called *lapis ollaris*, or pot-stone, because the ancients used to form it into pots and other utensils. Mr. M'Gibbon shewed me a large punch-bowl which had been formed of it. A single shower of rain turns this stone almost black, but a gleam of the sun restores its original colour. We had an opportunity of seeing this change on the western side of the castle, several times in the course of a few hours.

WE entered a spacious hall, hung round with arms and other ornaments suited to the style of a highland castle. This room

is lighted by the high middle windows, and is surrounded by a gallery, in which is an organ that must have a grand and striking effect on the ear. This is by much the largest room in the house, and, in my opinion, the only one perfectly correspondent to the magnificent exterior of the castle. The other rooms are fitted up in a modern style with exquisite taste; the large drawing-room particularly is a noble apartment, adorned with beautiful tapestry. The turret-rooms serve chiefly as small libraries, or private parlours, and are, most of them, ornamented with good prints.

THERE are no good pictures, excepting a few portraits: among these is a very fine one of the present Duke of Hamilton painted in Italy. A good head of the Marquis of Argyle, in a black dress and short hair; he cut a distinguished figure during the reign of Charles I. and subsequent usurpation: a short, but spirited sketch of his character is given by Mr. Pennant, which I shall take the liberty of presenting to the reader, nearly in his own words:

“ He was a man of craft and subtilty, and in his heart no friend to the royal cause, but temporizing according to the complexion of the times; concurring heartily, but secretly, with the disaffected powers, and extending a faint and timid aid to the shackled royalty of Charles II. when, in the year 1650, he intrusted himself to his northern subjects. He was at all times providing pleas of merit with both parties, but was apparently sincere with the usurpers only. With them he took an active part during

their plenitude of power, yet at first claimed only protection, freedom, and payment of his debts due from the English parliament. His own interest seems to have been constantly in view. While Charles was in his hands, he received from that penetrating prince, a promissory note for great honours and emoluments. He is charged with encouraging his people in various acts of murder and cruelty; but the provocations he had received from the horrible ravages of Montrose, may perhaps extenuate retaliation on such of his neighbours, who, for any thing that appears, partook of the excesses. He is charged also with possessing himself of the estates of those who were put to death by his authority, a charge which his fine defence on his trial does not repel. His generosity in declining to take an open part in the prosecution of his arch-enemy Montrose, would have done him great honour, had he not meanly placed himself in a window, to see the fallen hero pass in a cart to receive judgment. On the Restoration, he fell a victim to his *manes*. It was intended that he should undergo the same ignominious death, which was afterwards changed to that of beheading. "I could," says he, "die like a Roman, but I choose rather to die like a Christian." He fell with heroism, in his last moments with truth exculpating himself from having any concern in the murder of his royal master; and calming his conscience with the opinion, that his criminal compliances were but the epidemic disease and fault of his times. His guilt of treason is indisputable; but the acts of grace in 1641 and 1651 ought certainly to have secured him from capital punishment."

HERE is likewise a good head of his son, the Earl of Argyle, whose character was the very reverse of his father's; he was steady and virtuous, but unfortunate, and firm to his trust though all the misfortunes of his Prince, Charles II. When appointed colonel of his guards in 1650, he scorned to receive his commission from the tyrannical states of his country, and insisted on having it from his Majesty alone. In all his actions he preserved a patriotic, yet loyal moderation; but in 1681, delivering in an explanation of an oath he was to take, as a test not to attempt any alteration in church or state, he was disgraced, tried, and condemned; and the infamous sentence would have been executed, if he had not escaped from the power of his enemies. In 1685, in concert with the Duke of Monmouth, he made a fatal attempt to restore the liberties of his country, then invaded by James the Second. He failed in his design, and was put to death on his former sentence.

ON the day of his execution, he ate his dinner, and took his afternoon's nap with his usual composure, falling with a calmness and constancy suitable to the goodness of his life.

THE old residence of the Argyle family was a very large and strong castle, within a small distance of the present one, towards the river, which has been taken down within these thirty years.*

* It was inhabited about the latter end of the fourteenth century, by Colin, surnamed *Jougallach*, or the *Wonderful*, on account of his marvellous exploits and odd

The hills were formerly naked, and the grounds possessed the savage roughness common to the uncultivated parts of this country; and it does not appear that any thing considerable was done towards the improvement and embellishment of the place till about the middle of the last century, when the Marquis of Argyle, before mentioned, began to plant a few trees, and project some other improvements: it is probable, however, that he was early diverted from this purpose, by the confusion of the times, and that nothing was afterwards done till the re-establishment of the Earl his son, which took place some time between the years 1663 and 1670. During the short period of his possession, it appears that he had particularly bent his thoughts towards beautifying the family seat; almost the whole of the oldest trees about Inverary are of his planting, and remain a signal instance of his good taste and discernment, respecting what was best adapted to the nature of the soil and climate. Some of the most admired avenues, rows of trees and plantations, were designed by him, and plainly show, that had he lived longer he would have done much.

SINCE the beginning of the present century, the several successors to the estate and honours of Argyle have been particularly attentive to extending their plantations, and embellishing the place.

whims; among which may be mentioned the burning of his house at Inverary, on receiving a visit from the O'Niels of Ireland, that he might have a pretence to entertain his illustrious guests in his splendid field equipage. (Pennant's Tour.)

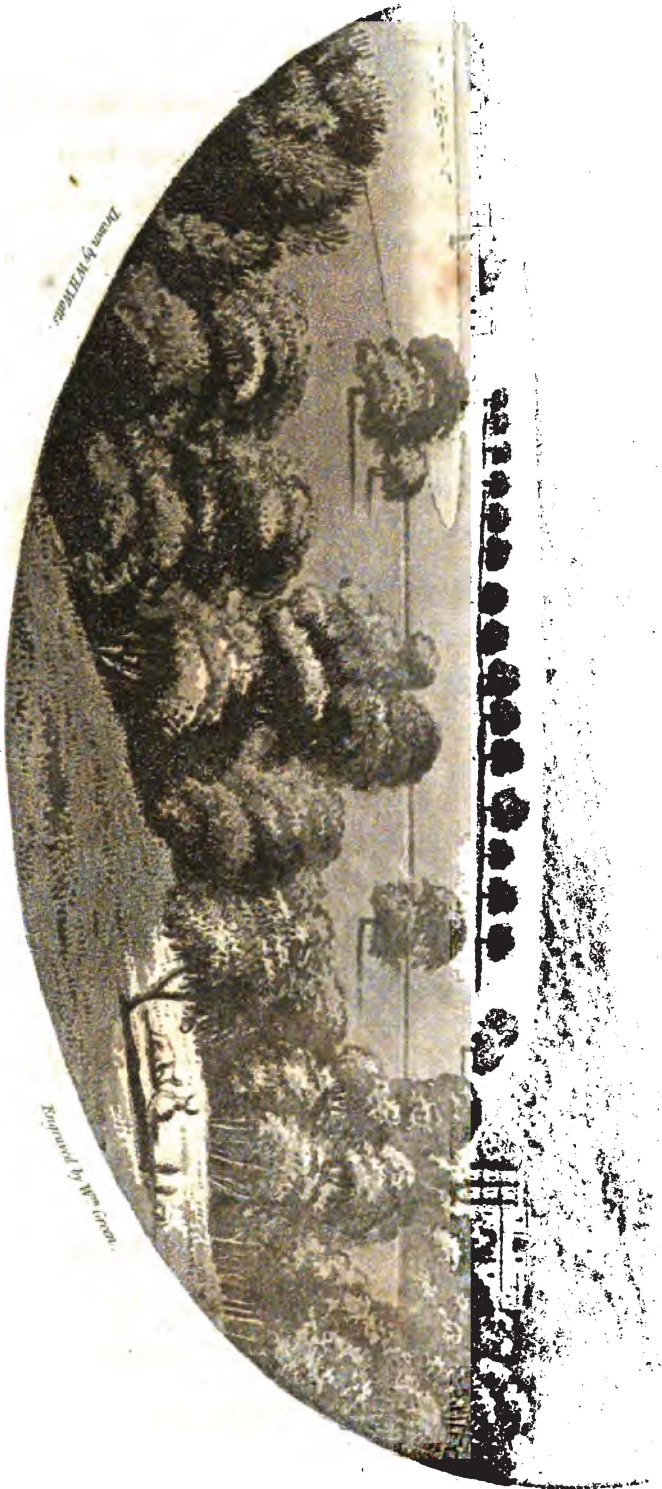
THE present estate was begun about the year 1745, by ARCHIBALD Duke of ARGYLE: he however finished little more than the shell; the rebellion breaking out at that time, interrupted the work. It was, in a few years afterwards, resumed and finished. Since that time, large sums have been annually expended by his successors, the late and present Duke, in improvements and decorations. It is said that the money laid out since 1745, in planting, improving, making roads, and other works of utility and decoration, about Inverary Castle, amounts to 250,000*l.* and that the present Duke, since his accession to the estate, has expended at least 3,000*l.* per annum in this way.* Indeed, every walk you take in the environs of this noble mansion surprizes you with the immense quantity of wood by which it is surrounded. It was long since valued at 100,000*l.* but from the increase in growth, and the advanced price of timber, I should suppose it must be worth near twice that sum: The thinning of the wood, to allow the remaining trees room to grow, produces not less than 1,500*l.* annually. The poor in the neighbourhood are allowed to take the rotten branches, and what may be called the droppings of the trees, and many of them collect the fallen leaves for their beds.

HAVING seen what was remarkable about the castle, we walked along the side of the Arey, which we crossed by a bridge a little beyond the castle, and keeping to the right, came to:

* Statistical Account of Inverary.

spot on the base of Dunicoich, near a gate leading to an avenue. Here we obtained that view of the castle, town, and loch, which is presented to the reader, and which is unquestionably a beautiful scene. From hence is a winding walk to the summit of the hill, whence there is a fine view of the pleasure grounds, or what in Scotland is called the policy of the Duke, extending near thirty miles in circumference. Instead of going up the hill at this time, however, we went through the gate, and down an avenue, formed by some of the noblest trees I had seen; having walked a little more than a mile along this avenue, we came in sight of Dub Loch, a deep and dark fresh water lake, communicating with Loch Fyne by a small river about a quarter of a mile in length, which we crossed by a bridge when we came first to Inverary. This lake is abundantly stocked with the finest fish, and the family always amply supplied from it. The lake lies at the bottom of a very picturesque glen, called Glen Shira, in which, at about two miles distance from Inverary, are the Duke's drying barns, well deserving a visit from the curious.

THESE buildings have been found very useful in so wet a climate, for by means of them hay may be made, or corn dried, during the heaviest rains. The building stands across the valley, and is of a circular form, and so contrived as to cause a draught of air even in calm weather, there being open arches, opposite to each other, through the whole building. It is divided into two stories, and the upper one is used for drying; the lower



Designed by W. H. H. H.

Engraved by W. H. H. H.

Secretary

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consisting of cow-houses and other conveniences. The floor of the upper story is made of small boards or battens, about an inch distant from each other, to receive the benefit of the air below. There are likewise openings in the sides of the walls at convenient heights, to receive the hay and corn from the carts. On this floor the grass is laid soon after it is cut; a few hands serve to turn it over for two or three days, when it is found perfectly dry, and of a much finer flavour than hay dried by the hot sun. In this story are jointed frames of wood, suspended from the roof, at convenient distances from each other. These frames have a number of sharp pointed pegs on each side of them, inclining upwards; upon each of which a sheaf of corn is hung to dry. The frames, by means of joints, are lowered down to receive the corn; and when the drying is finished, they are moved up again to be out of the way. The Duke's whole harvest in wet seasons, and some of it in all seasons, is dried in this manner. A particular description, with a plan of these barns, is given by Dr. SMITH of Campbeltown, in his valuable Agricultural Survey of Argyleshire.

His Grace has been so fully convinced of the utility of this mode of drying, that he has fitted up several small barns for that purpose, in the immediate vicinity of Inverary. The barns have several small beams running parallel to each other across the breadth of the room; from these are suspended a great number of long poles filled with pegs, on which the sheaves are hung.

INDEED we were informed that the present Duke is particularly attentive to every thing that can tend to the improvement of agriculture, or the management of cattle. He performs many experiments which are necessary for the perfection of agriculture, but which could not be ventured on by petty farmers.

It is much to be wished that in other parts of this country, where the harvest is late, and the weather at best uncertain, and generally wet, such contrivances for drying were more common; the expense is, however, an obstacle to their introduction; but covered sheds might be erected, which would afford a good substitute. The corn in the west highlands is often cut down before it is perfectly ripe, and can scarcely ever be well dried by exposure in the open fields.

THE town of Inverary is but small, consisting chiefly of one street, and a range of houses facing the lake: they are built with uniformity, and a good idea of them may be formed from the inspection of the print. The whole town, excepting one house, belongs to the Duke, who gives leases of ground to build upon, for three nineteen years, at a small rent. The houses are commodious, well built, and covered with slate.

A CONSIDERABLE part of the town, and all that part of it fronting Loch Fyne, was built by the Duke. About twenty years ago the old town, which was a dirty ill-built village, standing

on the north end of the bay, and part of it in the lawn before the castle, on the banks of the river, was removed, and rebuilt in its present situation.

It seems probable, that, prior to the beginning of the fourteenth century, the town of Inverary was little more than a place for fishermen, who lived by their occupation, and had erected their huts there; about that period, the family of Argyle fixed upon it as their residence. It was erected into a royal burgh by charter from King Charles I. in the year 1648. The only revenues belonging to it as a burgh arise from some petty customs, among which is a small toll on cattle passing through to the lowland or English markets, which amount on an average to about 4,000 annually, and the rent of a common, which, on the first erection of the burgh, was bestowed upon it by the family of Argyle. Both these produce about 30*l.* annually. About fifty years ago, Archibald, Duke of Argyle, seeing how inadequate this revenue was for the occasions of the burgh, added to it a perpetual annuity of twenty pounds per annum.*

THE house seen on the right, in the view of Inverary, is the inn, a very good building; in the middle of the range is the town-house, likewise a handsome structure: between these buildings is an iron gate, opening to a long and dark avenue of aged elms, which leads to a gloomy and romantic glen, about two miles distant, called *Essachosan*; at the top of the glen is a pretty cas-

* Stat. Report of Inverary.

cade. The woody hills surrounding it abound with roebucks, and are composed of granite; the lower parts consist of a fine silvery micaceous schistus, and a soft micaceous steatite.

IN our way to Essachosan, a curiosity in the vegetable kingdom, called the marriage tree, was pointed out to us. It is, if I recollect right, a lime, and very large, consisting of two principal branches, that have separated a few feet only above the ground; and have each grown to so immense a magnitude, that their weight must long since have disunited them, but for the following remarkable circumstance: at the height of about twenty feet, a strong branch has pushed out of one of the main branches, and grown firmly to the other; and so complete is the junction, that it is impossible to say from which trunk the branch has proceeded, for it seems to have come from each. A sketch will express this junction better than words.



By this strong bond of union, the two main branches are kept together. Does not this appear an instance of design in vegetables, consequent on some degree of perceptivity?*

* Whether it may be called an instance of design, or instinct, the author conceives is immaterial; but he thinks it is analogous to many actions performed by animals. The calf, when it first comes into the world, applies to the teats of the cow, though ignorant of the taste and nutritious quality of the milk; and the duckling, which has been hatched under a hen, at a distance from water, discovers a constant restlessness and impatience; and is observed to practise all the motions of swimming, though a stranger to its future destination, and to the element for which its oily feathers and web-like feet are alike formed. These are adduced as proofs of instinct by Dr. Percival. (Memoirs of the Manchester Society, vol. ii.) And indeed they evidently show the performance of actions necessary to the well-being, and even existence, of the individual. That such actions or instincts operate with equal energy on the vegetable-tribe, the instance before us would seem to show; and others similar to it may be mentioned. Lord Kames, in his Gentleman Farmer, mentions a variety of instances of this kind in vegetables, one of which is something analogous to the marriage tree. Among the ruins of New Abbey, formerly a monastery in Galloway, says this author, there grows on the top of the wall, a plane-tree about twenty feet high: straitened for nourishment in that barren situation, its several years ago directed roots down the side of the wall, till they had reached the ground, ten feet below; and now the nourishment it afforded to these roots are amply repaid, having every year since that time, made vigorous shoots. From the top of the wall to the surface of the earth, these roots have not thrown out a single fibre, but are now united into a pretty thick root. (Gentleman Farmer, p. 417.) While we were viewing the house and grounds of Rosdoc, on Loch Lomond, I observed an instance very similar to this. Upon a high wall, not far from the house, is a quantity of ivy, which being straitened for nourishment, has sent down roots in a direct line to the ground, which roots have enabled the ivy to grow more luxuriantly in this place than on any other part of the wall.

Dr. Percival says, that whilst engaged in a course of experiments to ascertain the effects of fixed air (*carbonic acid*) on vegetation, the following fact occurred to him. A sprig of mint suspended by the root, with the head downwards, in the middle glass vessel of Dr. Nooth's machine, continued to thrive vigorously, without any other pabulum than what was supplied by the stream of gas, to which it was exposed. In twenty four hours, the stem formed into $\frac{1}{2}$ curve, the head became erect, and gradually ascended towards the mouth of the vessel; thus producing, by successive efforts, a new and unusual configuration of its parts. (Manchester Memoirs, vol. ii.)

FROM Essachsen, we returned by a different avenue to the town, which led us by a fine spring that supplies Inve-

Such exertions in a sprig of mint, to rectify its inverted position, and to remove from a foreign to a natural element, seems to evince a volition to avoid what is evil, and to recover what had been experienced to be good. If a plant in a garden pot be placed in a room, which has no light, excepting what is admitted through a small perforation in the wall, it will shoot towards the hole, pass through it into the open air, and then vegetate upwards in its proper direction. Innumerable other instances, similar to these, might be given, but I would not wish to tire the patience of the reader: those who are inclined to consider this curious subject with more attention, may consult Lord Kames's Gentleman Farmer, Appendix, Article III. Dr. Percival's Essay on the Perceptivity of Vegetables, in the second volume of the Memoirs of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester, and the fifth volume of Bishop Watson's Chemical Essays. One instance more, and I have done: the *Dionæa muscipula* is a native of North Carolina. Its leaves are numerous, bending downwards, and placed in a circular order; they are jointed and succulent; the upper joint consists of two lobes, each of which is semi-oval in its form, with a margin furnished with stiff hairs; these lobes embrace each other, when they close from any irritation.

The surfaces of the lobes are covered with small red glands, probably to secrete some sweet liquor, tempting to the taste, but fatal to the lives of insects; for the moment a fly alights on those parts, the two lobes rise up, grasp it forcibly, lock the rows of spines together, and squeeze it to death; and, lest the struggles for life should disengage the insect thus entangled, three small spines are fixed among the glands, near the middle of each lobe, which effectually put an end to all its efforts; nor do the lobes open again while the dead animal continues there. (Darwin's Botanic Garden.) The dissolution of the substance of the fly, is supposed by naturalists to constitute part of the nourishment of this plant; and as the instances are innumerable where animals feed upon plants, this seems to afford an example of retaliation. A British plant, the *Drosera*, very much resembles the *Dionæa muscipula*, not only in the form of its leaves, but in its killing flies and other insects, as I have before mentioned in the description of Benlomon. In short, the principle of life seems very universally diffused, but is bestowed on different beings in different degrees. To animals is given the largest share; but throughout the whole animal kingdom one species descends below another, in the perfection of its mental powers, as well as its organic sensations. This progression is so very gradual, that the most perfect of an inferior species, approaches indefinitely near to the most imperfect of that which is above it. The chain is continued, by imperceptible links, animals and vegetables, and perhaps even to the mineral kingdom.

rary with water. Over the spring is built a grotto in a suitable style.

NEAR the center of the town of Inverary, is a monument not long since erected to the memory of several gentlemen of the name of CAMPBELL, who were massacred at one time near the spot. The circumstance is as follows;—It has been already noticed, that the amiable and patriotic Earl of Argyle, in the year 1685, joined the Duke of Monmouth's rebellion. After that unfortunate expedition, a neighbouring clan was deputed by government to carry destruction through the whole clan of Campbell: and, as Mr. Pennant says, was let slip, armed with the dreadful writ of fire and sword, to act at discretion among the unhappy people. Seventeen gentlemen of respectability, of the name of Campbell, were taken at Inverary, and instantly executed without even the formality of a trial. The monument contains an inscription, commemorating, with a moderation that does honour to the writer, the justice of the cause in which his relatives fell.

BESIDES this monument, there stands in the plain before the castle, a long rude pillar of stone, said to have been erected to their memory. In many parts of the highlands, similar stones point out the burial place of some hero, but of much earlier date; and I think there can be no doubt that this stone has been erected at a period much more remote than the massacre of the Campbells.

INVERARY is so situated in the highlands, that as many of the inhabitants speak English as Gaelic; there are therefore two ministers, one who officiates in English, and the other in Gaelic. Two new churches under one roof are building, from a very handsome design by Mr. MILNE, which, when finished, will have a good effect. They are built of a kind of porphyry, with a reddish ground, containing a number of crystals of feldspar, of a lighter colour, some crystals of black shorl, and a few of quartz. It is a very hard stone, and found in great plenty in a quarry on the road to Dalnaly, where it lies over a bed of schistus, under which is a bed of fine marble which is burned to lime.

THOUGH Inverary is tolerably well situated for manufactures, none are carried on to any very great extent. Archibald, Duke of Argyle, about the year 1748, introduced the linen manufacture into the neighbourhood, and it has been attended with very beneficial consequences; about the year 1776, the present Duke established a woollen manufacture, and, at a considerable expense, erected proper buildings and machinery, and provided every material for carrying it on successfully. At the same time, as an additional encouragement, he gave the farm on which the factory is built, at a very low rent, and even took some shares in the concern, contributing every thing in his power to insure the success of so patriotic an undertaking.

THIS plan, so nobly set on foot by the Duke, was seconded by many gentlemen of the county, who nobly seconded the manufacturers at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Notwithstanding which, and that his Grace gave the use of the whole buildings and machinery gratis, the business has not by any means been conducted with advantage, a circumstance much to be lamented; for since the introduction of sheep into Argyleshire, the county has in some degree been depopulated, and the manufacture, had it succeeded, would not only have given employment to the hands turned from the farms, but would have added considerably to the wealth of the country, by exporting its wool in a manufactured, instead of a raw state: indeed I suppose that the greatest part of the cloth manufactured here, which was of the coarse kind, would have been sold in the country. It is certainly a disadvantage to a country, where its inhabitants want employment, to sell the raw material, and then purchase it when it has been manufactured, after having gone through several hands, each of whom must have his profit.

INVERARY, however, possesses one source of riches, of which the people do not fail to avail themselves, I mean the herring fishery in Loch Fyne. This lake, extending more than thirty miles from the western ocean into the country, has been from time immemorial noted for its herrings, which are superior in quality to any found in the western seas. The harbour of Inverary was anciently called *Stochk Ischopper*, signifying the bay where vessels bought or bartered for fish; and there is still

represented in the shield of the arms of the burgh, a net with a herring, with this motto, "Semper tibi pendeat halec."*

THE herring fishery commonly begins in July, and sometimes continues till the first of January. It had just commenced when we came hither, and was a scene of life, bustle, and activity. The lake is generally at this time frequented by innumerable shoals. The country people express the quantities of herring abounding here, in very strong language; at these seasons, say they, the lake contains one part of water, and two parts of fish. In this single bay of the lake, five or six hundred boats are sometimes employed in taking them, and the groups of these little fishing vessels, with their circling nets, make a beautiful moving picture.

FROM the best information, it is believed, that there have been caught and cured in some seasons, upwards of 20,000 barrels, valued at twenty-five shillings each.

PART of each boat is covered with a kind of sail-cloth, to form a covering for the four men who compose the crew: this is represented in the view of Loch Loung. These men may be said to live in their boat the whole of the fishing season, for they seldom quit it during that time. The inhabitants of Inverary, and of the banks of the Loch, do indeed spend Sunday at home; but as the greatest number of boats come from other parts of

* Stat. Report of Inverary.

Scotland into the Loch, for the sake of fishing, the crews seldom quit them, and they live chiefly upon herring during their abode in the boats. The night is the time of fishing; the day is employed in gutting the fish they have taken, in sleep, or in singing Celtic tales to the sound of the bag-pipe. Each boat clears upon an average, between 40% and 50% and in some very good seasons 100% besides a quantity of fish which they reserve for their own families.

In the evening, a number of boats form a line, almost across the Loch, and uniting their nets, produce a chain often more than a hundred fathoms long. The herrings swim at very uncertain depths, so that it is necessary to sink the nets to the depth the shoal is known to take. Hence it is evident, that the success of the fishers must in a great measure depend on their judgment on good fortune, in taking the proper depths; for it will frequently happen, that the nets of one boat will be full of herrings, whilst those of others scarcely take a single fish. Sometimes the fish swim in twenty fathom water, sometimes fifty, and sometimes even at the bottom of the Loch. The nets are kept up by buoys, consisting of blown bladders, or leather bags filled with air; the ropes that run through them are fastened with pegs, by means of which they can easily adjust them.

THEY often boil or seak their nets in a strong decoction of oak bark, which prevents their putrefaction in the water.

WHEN they have caught as many as they can during the night, they gut them, and throw them into a tub, with a sprinkling of salt: they are then closely packed in barrels, with alternate layers of salt: and after standing in this manner for a few weeks, they are repacked into other barrels, and sent to different parts of the world.

THIS is the case with by much the greater part that are taken; but many are sent fresh to Glasgow, Stirling, and indeed to almost all parts of the country. In the middle of the season, two or three hundred horses and a great many carts are brought every day to the banks of Loch Fyne for fresh herrings. We ate some at Inverary which had been taken out of the water the preceding evening—they were delicious.

A BARREL holds about 500 of the best kind of herrings, but 700 at a medium; if the number be greater, they are reckoned poor. The guts afford a considerable quantity of oil.

THE herring fisheries in the highlands and isles should be encouraged by every possible means; not only because it is an excellent nursery of seamen, but because it is the only way in which these barren countries can acquire wealth and population. The poverty of the soil will prevent agricultural improvements beyond a certain and very limited extent, and the want of fuel, with the impossibility of raising any great quantity of provisions, will prevent the carrying on of manufactures upon a very extensive scale:

but the fisheries are an inexhaustible fund of wealth, and can be carried to any extent whatever. In Glasgow, Paisley, and other parts of the low countries, manufactures are conducted on a noble scale; they are sources of immense wealth to many, and of employment to hundreds of thousands; still, however, these must have their bounds: but what bounds can be set to the herring fisheries, if under judicious regulations? There can be no doubt that larger fortunes might be acquired in the bleak highlands, and dreary wilds of the Hebrides, by the herring fishery, properly conducted, than have ever been done by the cotton manufactory in the low countries.

THIS is the true source of wealth to these parts of the kingdom; and if attended to, as its importance calls for, will fill all the indented shores of North Britain with population, wealth, and every comfort and convenience of life.

IN order to see this more clearly, let us take a slight view of the migration of herrings, and of the immense shoals which frequent this country. The following account chiefly is taken from Knox's View of the British Empire.

HERRINGS, as well as mackarel, codfish, whittings, haddocks, and some others, may, with propriety, be called fish of passage, for they bear a strong analogy to birds of that description, both from their social disposition, and their immense numbers. Other fish reside on our coasts, and live in particu-

lar lakes and rivers, all the year round: but these, at stated seasons, visit the shores with regular certainty, generally returning the same week in the succeeding year, and not unfrequently the same day.

HERRINGS are found in the greatest abundance in the highest northern latitudes, within the arctic circle. In these inaccessible seas, which are covered with ice during by much the greatest part of the year, the herrings find a quiet and sure retreat from their numerous enemies; there neither all-devouring man, who makes the inhabitants of earth, air, and water, his prey, nor that still more destructive enemy, the whale, dare to pursue them. Here, however, they were not intended to remain in security, but were destined by the Author of nature to serve the purpose of supplying myriads of created beings with food, and for this purpose, an insurmountable instinct prompts them to leave their secure retreats.

THE great colony of herring sets out from the icy sea, about the middle of winter, composed of such numbers as exceed all the powers of imagination, but no sooner do they leave their glassy dominions, than millions of enemies appear to thin their squadrons. The sun-fish and the cachalot devour hundreds at a mouthful: the porpus, the grampus, cod-fish, haddocks, as well as the whole tribe of dog-fish, find them an easy prey; and the ravenous shark desists from pursuing the above-mentioned fish, to attack the herring: besides these enemies in their own

element, they meet with others still more formidable in the myriads of sea-fowl inhabiting the regions near the pole, that watch the out-set of the migration, and spread extensive ruin.

THUS besieged on every side, the defenceless emigrants find no safety but in crowding closer together, and leaving to the outmost bands the danger of being first devoured. The main body begins, at a certain latitude, to separate into two grand divisions; one of which moves westward, and pours down the coasts of America, as far south as Carolina, and are often so numerous in the Chesapeak Bay, as to become a nuisance to the shores. The other division takes a more eastern direction, towards Europe, and falls in with the great island of Iceland about the beginning of March; upon their arrival on that coast, their phalanx, though it has already suffered considerable diminution, is nevertheless found to be of amazing extent, depth, and closeness, occupying a surface, equal at least to the dimensions of both Great Britain and Ireland, but subdivided into columns of five or six miles in length, and three or four in breadth; each division, or column, being led, according to the idea of the most experienced fishermen, by herrings of more than ordinary size, older perhaps than the others, and having made a considerable number of voyages, may be capable of conducting their different bands to their destined places.

THEY generally swim near the surface, but sink now and then for a few minutes. The leaders of those which visit the British kingdoms, appear off Shetland in April or May, and the

grand body begins to be perceived in June. The fishers are apprized of their coming by a small rippling of the water, the reflection of their brilliancy, and the great number of gannets or Solan geese, and other aërial persecutors, which feast richly on this offered bounty; and, along with the whales and other fish, may be one cause of the shoals crowding into bays and creeks, where they are caught by fishermen with so much ease.

WHEN they arrive at the Shetland Islands, new enemies await them; whole fleets of fishing vessels, with all the apparatus of netting, are in readiness, on a fixed day, to drag the ocean; thereby snatching from the shoals, perhaps millions every night, from June till September.

THE Shetland Islands, where the herrings meet with the first interruption to their progress southwards, lie at the distance of 100 miles due north from the main land of Scotland; and extend near 60 miles in length; and though these islands break and separate the great body of herrings into two parts, the wanderers still continue their course southward. One division proceeds down the east side of Britain; goes along the Murray Firth, the coasts of Aberdeen, Angus, and Fife; the great river Forth, the coast of Scarborough, and particularly the far-projecting land at Yarmouth, the ancient and only mart for herrings in England; here they appear in October, and are found in considerable quantities till Christmas: passing through the channel, some of them pay a slight visit to the north coast.

of France, but are so exhausted and impoverished as to be of little or no use.

THE other brigade shape their course from the Shetland Islands, along the west coast of Britain, and these are observed to be much larger and fatter, as well as considerably more abundant, than those on the east side. After passing the Shetland and Orkney Isles, they crowd in amazing quantities into the lakes, bays, and narrow channels of the shires of Sutherland, Ross, and Inverness; which, with the Hebrides, compose the greatest stationary herring fishing in Great Britain, excepting that upon the coast of Shetland.

SOMETIMES this shoal edges close upon the extensive coast of Argyleshire, and fills every bay and creek; and almost always the Firth of Clyde, Loch Fyne, Loch Loung, and other arms of the sea; the coast of Airshire and of Galloway, even to the head of Solway Firth. Having performed this friendly office to the western shores of Scotland, the shoal proceeds towards the north of Ireland; where, meeting with another interruption, they are subdivided into two bodies. One passes down the Irish Channel, visits the Isle of Man, where they are caught in great abundance, and affords an occasional supply to the east coast of Ireland, and sometimes to the west coast of England, as far as Bristol Channel. The other shoal skirts along the west coast of Ireland, where, after visiting some of the lakes particularly in the county of Donnegal, it gradually disappears, and is finally

lost in the immensity of the Atlantic.—So bountiful, as Mr. Knox observes, is Providence to the inhabitants of the British Isles, in one article of food only.

THOUGH there can be no doubt that the ultimate design of this migration, is to supply the northern parts of Europe and America with food, and thus atone for the seeming partiality of Nature to more southern climes, the immediate cause of it is their strong desire to remove to warmer seas, for the sake of depositing their spawn, where it will vivify with more certainty than under the frigid zone. It cannot be from defect of food that they leave the polar region, whatever that food may be, for they come to us full of fat, and on their return are generally observed to be very lean. They are in full roe at the end of June, and continue in perfection till the commencement of winter, when they begin to deposit their spawn.

BLESSED as this country is with shoals of fish, and possessing such advantages for carrying on the fisheries, comparatively little has been done by the highlanders in this trade. What has been performed, was done by individuals in a small way, very few private capitals having been employed. Indeed, till within a very few years, the chief of our fisheries, viz. those in the Shetland Isles, have been in the hands of a people who possess no natural advantages. To these fisheries on our own coasts, the Dutch chiefly owe their wealth, or, at any rate, they have been the means by which this industrious people raised them-

selves to a state of opulence. Originally they appear to have been nothing more than fishermen, collected from different quarters of the world, to a place where they could enjoy freedom of traffic; and living in huts erected upon a spot called Damsluys, they there pursued with industry, and under wise and excellent regulations, the herring fisheries on the British coasts; sold their fish to many parts of the world, and brought back commodities themselves wanted, and merchandize which they exported to different parts; so that their ships were never empty, but always loaded wherever they went, with some object of traffic. Sir William Monson, speaking of their ships being thus constantly employed, aptly compares them to a weaver's shuttle, which he casts from one hand to another, and which he keeps ever in action, till the gain appears by the cloth that he makes. By persevering in this industrious mode of life, the poor fishing village of Damsluys gradually increased: as the inhabitants gained means, the huts were converted into comfortable habitations, these into splendid dwellings, and the whole became, by degrees, metamorphosed into the opulent city of Amsterdam.

THE disadvantages they labour under are great; but industry overcomes every obstacle, and converts the most barren spots into seats of plenty. Their own country is so poor in natural productions, that for almost every article requisite to conduct these fisheries they have recourse to foreign nations. Their timber for ship-building, their iron, hemp, cordage, barrels,

and even their bread, is brought from other countries; while Scotland supplies most of them, and England all. They have, besides, a considerable navigation to make to come at the fisheries, and at a stormy season of the year, while we have the fish at our own doors. Notwithstanding these advantages in our favour, the Dutch have, till lately, been the only persons who profited by them, as appears from different accounts.

ACCORDING to Sir WALTER RALEIGH, in the year 1603, the Dutch sold to different nations, as many herrings as amounted to 1,759,900*l*. In the year 1615, they employed in this fishery, 2,000 busses, and 37,000 fishermen. In 1618, they sent no less than 3,000 busses, with 50,000 men to the herring fisheries; besides this, 9,000 other vessels were employed to transport and sell the fish, which last occupations employed 150,000 men by sea and land, in addition to those immediately engaged in the fisheries. Thus did our industrious neighbours increase the number of their vessels and seamen, supply half the world with food, and raise themselves to opulence at our expense.*

* It appears by some accurate statements made by Sir W. Monson, Sir Walter Raleigh, Sir Lucius O'Brian, and others, that the number of herrings sold by the Dutch to foreign nations is astonishing. In four provinces within the Sound, viz. Koningsberg, Melvin, Stetin, and Dantzic, according to accounts which have been taken from Custom-house books, and may therefore be depended upon, they annually vend between 30 and 40,000 lasts of herrings, worth more than 620,000*l*. while we did not send a single fish.

To Denmark, Norway, Narpe, Sweden, Regel, and other places within the Sound, they annually sent above 10,000 lasts, value 160,000*l*. To Russia they sent 1500 lasts, worth 27,000*l*., while we sent only to the same places between 30 and 40,000*l*.

It is to the Shetland Islands that the Dutch have chiefly resorted, and a particular account of the manner in which they conduct their fisheries there, is given by Sir W. MONSON.

FROM the Texel to Brasound, in Shetland, is upwards of 230 leagues. To the latter place, about the 20th of June, at least 2000 fishing vessels in his time resorted. On the 24th they put to sea, being prohibited till that day, under a severe penalty, as the herrings are before that not thought fit for salting.

EACH of these vessels on that day, directs its course to find out the shoal of herrings; when they have laden their busses, they return to Holland, and leave their cargo, which is immediately repacked, and sent to the Baltic, and other parts of the world.

As soon as the busses have furnished themselves with victuals, casks, and salt, they revisit the shoal they have left, and filling again as quickly as possible, return to Holland to unload; this they generally do three times in the season, and during that

To towns upon the river Elbe, they sent above 6000 lasts annually, worth 100,000*l.* while we sent none to the same places.

To Cleveland, Juliers, Frankfort, Cologne, and different parts of Germany, 22,000 lasts, amounting to 440,000*l.* while we sent none.

To Guelderland, Artois, Hainhaut, Brabant, and Flanders, 8 or 9000 lasts, worth 160,000*l.* and we none.

To Rouen, in Normandy, 500 lasts, value 10,000*l.* while we only send 100 lasts. Thus, says Sir W. Monson, so many thousands of lasts of fish taken on our own coasts, have been sold by them, and so many hundreds of thousands of pounds produced, while we could not give an account of more than 150 lasts, value 3000*l.*!

period, on the most moderate computation, each buss takes 100 lasts of herring, which being valued only at 10*l.* the last, amounts to 1000*l.* for each vessel.

THE fishing fleet is often attended by certain vessels called Yawgers, that carry salt, casks, and victuals, to truck with the busses for their herrings, which they carry directly to the Baltic.

I SHOULD not have been thus particular in describing the herring fisheries, since it has been done by persons much better acquainted with the subject, did I not conceive it to be the duty of every one to lose no opportunity of impressing the minds of the public, with the necessity of encouraging this source of wealth and national prosperity. Public spirited men, and bodies of men, have at different times seen the utility of it, and have, for a while, made exertions in the cause; but sufficient perseverance has been wanting. The country is infinitely indebted to Mr. KNOX, whose laborious exertions to promote this end are well known. He laid the foundation of the society for the encouragement of the fisheries, which will, I hope, in time be attended with the wished-for success. If any of my readers are desirous of acquiring more information on this subject, I would recommend to their attention, his accurate "View of the British Empire;" a work to which I am indebted for many of these observations on the fisheries.

As connected intimately with the improvement of the fisheries, as well as with Loch Fyne, on whose banks I fear the reader will think he has been too long detained, I may here mention the Crinan Canal, first projected, I believe, by Mr. Knox. This canal, which will be so important in its consequences to the whole kingdom, but particularly to the highlands, is nearly completed, but is, I am informed, at present almost at a stop for want of money. It is to be hoped, that in a very short time, however, the work will be resumed with spirit. A vessel coming from any of the highland ports, for instance, Oban, into the Clyde, which is the great mart for the disposal of the produce of the highlands, must go entirely round by the Mull of Cantyre, a narrow peninsula that stretches forty miles from the main land of Scotland, in a southern direction, till it approaches within twenty miles of the county of Antrim in Ireland. The distance from Greenock to the promontory or Mull,* as it is called, is above sixty miles in a south-west direction; but if we include the course of the shipping thither, the islands to be avoided, the tacks and evolutions occasioned by contrary winds, and lee-shores, the voyages from Greenock to the Mull of Cantyre may, on an average, be estimated at eighty miles each; which, being all in a direction contrary to the intended port, requires an equal, or nearly equal navigation on the opposite side of the Cape, till the vessels get into the same latitude with Greenock. This occasions an extra navigation of 120

* Mull, or Maoil, in Gaelic signifies a Cape.

miles, or 240 miles northward and homeward, to every vessel or boat going to the west highlands from the Clyde. Now it is evident, that the wind which favoured their voyage to the Mull of Cantyre, becomes adverse after having doubled the Cape; they must therefore either lie to, or if a boat, work at their oars, through a heavy sea up the Firth of Clyde, probably for many days before they reach the intended port. Having disposed of their small cargo of skins, bark, or fish, in their return, they have to combat the same difficulties and dangers: and when we consider the almost incessant gales, the lee-shores, rocks, numerous islands, sands, and currents, attending this navigation, we can easily see that, besides the loss of time and money which it occasions, it is extremely hazardous to the poor natives, many of whom perish every year.

Now if the reader will cast his eye upon Loch-Fyne in the map, he will perceive, at the part where it turns eastward, a small projecting arm called Loch Gilp, and opposite to it, in the sound of Jura, another arm called Loch Crinan; the distance between these two arms is only five miles, and it is through this isthmus that the canal is to be cut. This work, it is evident, will save a great deal of time to vessels coming from the west highlands into the Clyde, and will likewise avoid the dangers and other inconveniences attending a passage by the Mull of Cantyre. Indeed, if we may be allowed the comparison, it will, when completed, be as great an acquisition to the highlands, as a cut through the isthmus of Suez would be to Europe. It has

been begun on a large scale, being sixty feet wide, and twelve deep. The expense is estimated at about 80,000/.

THE public spirit of the undertakers of this canal, is highly to be praised; but it is to be wished that it had been a national work, and that no more dues were charged on vessels going through it, than might be necessary to keep it in repair; for though it will be a work of great utility to the highlands, yet the number of vessels passing through, would not, at least for some time, be very great; so that in order to obtain a moderate interest for the money, a high duty must be laid, and probably more than many of the highland boats can afford to pay. Indeed, the craft which would chiefly navigate this canal, are small boats passing to and from the Clyde, with cargoes seldom amounting to twenty pounds each; and money is such an object to these poor people, that, to save a tonnage of five shillings, they would risk the voyage by the Mull of Cantyre.

THE highland canals, like the highland roads, ought to be public works. Were the roads in the highlands supported by a toll, I should suppose that half-a-crown, or five shillings a horse, would be necessary to pay the interest of the money laid out in forming them, so few are the travellers, and yet good roads are absolutely necessary.* Such objects are undoubtedly national, and the expense to the nation would be trifling.

* Some idea of the very few travellers on these roads may be formed, when it is mentioned, that, during the first three weeks of our tour in the highlands, we did not meet a single traveller, either on horseback or in a carriage.

I KNOW not whether to make any apology for this long digression, but those who think the subject of no importance, may pass it over, and continue the tour.

AFTER seeing every thing worth notice at Inverary, we spent the evening with Mr. M'GIBBON, whose politeness and hospitality deserve at least to be acknowledged; and on the 14th, early in the morning, we set off for Dalmary, at the head of Loch Awe, sixteen miles distant from Inverary. Our object was to get to Oban, and we could have crossed the lake by a ferry at Port Sonachan, which would have saved some time, but we wished to see more of this beautiful lake, which we were told was the rival of Loch Lomond.

THE first part of the road was pleasant, leading through the Duke's plantations. About three miles from Inverary, the river Arey tumbling over rugged rocks, forms a good cascade: it is close by the side of the road, and facing a gate leading to it is a small cottage, that serves the purpose of a porter's lodge. A wooden bridge is thrown over the river, just above the fall; which we passed to reach a point on the other side, that gave us a good view of it. We were told that the Duke intends building a temple or grotto here, from whence the cascade may be conveniently seen.

SOON after leaving this cascade, we left also the Duke's plantations, and our ride was not for some miles by any means inte-

resting; the hills are in general bleak and barren. In this country sheep have taken the place of black cattle, and are said to be more profitable. The only habitations we saw, were the cottages of shepherds, and the smoke issuing from their doors, gave no very exalted idea of their neatness, or of the purity of the air within.

At Inverary the greater part of the inhabitants burn coal, which they chiefly procure from the neighbourhood of Glasgow, by way of Loch Fyne, but here, as indeed in most parts of the highlands, peat is the only fuel, and in very wet summers, when it is impossible to dry their peats, or get them home if they were dry, on account of the softness of the ground, they are very much distressed. This was particularly the case during the last summer (1797); when very few peats were got in. The more opulent purchased coals at a high price at Inverary, and brought them home; but the distress of the poor, for want of this necessary article through the winter, was very great indeed. Many of them were obliged to burn the little wretched furniture they possessed, to dress their victuals.

At the distance of about eight miles from Inverary, we had the first view of Loch Awe, from an eminence; and our expectations were by no means disappointed, for it is certainly only second to Loch Lomond. The banks, near which the rest of our road lay, consisted of steep mountains very finely wooded. Its smooth surface is broken by islands, many of which are or-

namented with picturesque ruins. Loch Awe is about thirty miles in length, and in some places two miles broad, though the average breadth of it does not exceed one mile. Its surface is 108 feet above the level of the sea: besides the great number of rivulets and streams which run into this lake on both sides, from the neighbouring hills, contrary to most lakes, it receives a considerable river at each extremity, and discharges itself laterally into Loch Etive, an arm of the sea to the north, at a place called Bunaw. The lake abounds with salmon, trout, and some char; it likewise contains plenty of eels, which are held in abhorrence by the common people of the highlands, who consider this delicate fish as a water serpent, unfit for the use of men.*

THE inn of Dalmaly is a very comfortable one, considering its situation. Lord BREADALBANE, whose property it is, ever attentive to the accommodation of travellers, lets the house at a very low rent.

FROM this inn is a view of Glenorchay to the east, a fine valley, moderately wooded, through which the river Urchay winds along for about fourteen miles, and falls into the eastern end of Loch Awe.

AFTER breakfast, we went to call upon Dr. M'INTIRE, the minister of Glenorchay: the manse and church are situated on a beautiful little isle, in the river Urchay, opposite to

* Stat. Account.

the inn of Dalnaly. We were not fortunate enough to meet with the worthy pastor at home, but were hospitably entertained by the Rev. ALEXANDER M'INTIRE, his son, the minister of a neighbouring parish, and by Miss M'INTIRE, a young lady of accomplished manners, and remarkably well informed. She presented us with some highland berries and cream, which were excellent. These berries were the fruit of *Vaccinium myrtillus*, or bilberry whortle, that grows very plentifully in most parts of the highlands, and, when preserved with sugar, they form a conserve, at least equal to any fruit in our gardens.

On being informed that one of the objects of my tour was mineralogy, Miss M'INTIRE very obligingly selected for me some specimens of minerals collected from the neighbouring hills: among these were some beautiful rock crystal, some large specimens of talc, a few petrefactions, particularly one of a potatoe. With the minerals she likewise sent me some specimens of lead ore, found on the glebe, very near the manse, which is very rich. Beside the minerals above-mentioned, some of which are very common here, cobalt, asbestos, and a very beautiful jasper, have been found in small masses among the rocks and mountains. The island on which the manse stands, consists of a rock of bluish limestone, interspersed with small particles of mica, and veins of calcareous spar; the same kind of limestone is visible in several parts about Dalnaly, generally lying under a stratum of micaceous schistus. The neighbouring hills are chiefly composed of granite.

TOMB OF THE MACNABS.

The church of Glenorchay is old, and in bad repair: in the church-yard are several old tomb-stones, formed of a kind of *lapis allaris*, with figures of warriors, some armed with spears, and others with two-handed swords. These are supposed to be the tombs of the Macgregors, whose possession and chief residence, as was before observed,* were in the vale of Glenorchay.

AMONG other tombs in this church-yard, is one of the family of MACNAB, a race of blacksmiths, who have resided in the neighbourhood since the year 1440, and have still followed the same profession. A hammer, pincers, and some other implements of the art, are rudely carved upon the tomb-stone. A descendant of this family still lives on an eminence on the south-side of the vale, and, we were informed, is in possession of a manuscript containing several of the poems of Ossian, and other Celtic bards, in their native tongue, which were collected by one of his ancestors. A progenitor of his was first brought hither by Sir COLIN CAMPBELL of Loch Awe, to manufacture arms and armour, as well as to perform other necessary parts of smith's work. A line of his posterity have, ever since, continued to follow his profession on the very spot where he first settled.

WHEN every highlander was a soldier, and wore arms, a blacksmith was necessarily a man of consequence. In the simple state of the mechanic arts among these people, that of the

blacksmith who could forge armour, was the most complex; and the demand for his productions universal. The progress of civilization, however grateful to the feelings of humanity, has certainly been unfavourable to the dignity of the blacksmith. From the forging of armour, his hands have been degraded to the shoeing of horses, and other meaner works, of which there is even so little need, that unless he had a farm, and employed himself in agriculture, this respectable descendant of Vulcan could not perhaps gain a comfortable living.* He still continues to make very beautiful highland dirks.

THE Duke of Argyle is the patron of the living; and the present worthy incumbent observes, that in no part of the kingdom has patronage been exercised with more marked attention to the heritors, and people of a parish, than in this country. Settlements against the wish of a majority of parishioners are not known. The following singular fact is the only instance to the contrary, and which, for its singularity, I shall take the liberty to transcribe from Dr. M'Intire's Statistical Account.

“ AT the Revolution, when presbytery was at last re-established in North Britain, a Mr. DUGALD LINDSAY was the episcopal minister of Glenorchay. Mr. Lindsay would not conform. Pressed by the synod of Argyle, the noble patron wrote a letter of invitation to a presbyterian probationer in the shire of Perth,

* Feron's Journey through Part of Scotland.

to be minister of Glenorchay. He accepted; came on the close of the week to the parish, but could find no house to receive him, or person to make him welcome. In his distress, he was driven to the house of the man whom he came to supplant, and was received with a cordiality and kindness becoming a minister of the gospel. Over the whole parish there was a strong ferment. People of all ages and conditions assembled, from all quarters, in the church-yard, on Sabbath, long before the usual hour of worship. At the appearance of the stranger, accompanied by their own beloved pastor, there was a general murmur of indignation. Twelve armed men with drawn swords, surrounded the astonished intruder. Two bagpipes sounded the *march of death*. Unmoved by the tears and remonstrances of Mr. Lindsay, in this hostile and awful form they proceeded, with their prisoner, to the boundary of the parish, and of the county. There, on his bended knees, he solemnly engaged never more to enter the parish, or trouble any person for the occurrences of that day. He was allowed to depart in peace, and he kept his promise. The synod of Argyle were much incensed; time cooled their ardour; the patron was indulgent, Mr. Lindsay deserving and beloved by the people. He continued in the undisturbed possession of his charge more than thirty years after the aforesaid event."

The occupations of the inhabitants in the neighbourhood of Loch Awe, are chiefly pastoral: the country, excepting in the vale of Glenorchay, being very hilly, and better suited to the

support of sheep than agriculture. Almost every person, however, cultivates some oats and barley; the return of the former is not in general above three or four seeds, and of barley six or seven; but potatoes thrive very well here, returning from twelve to twenty fold. For nine months of the year, this useful root makes a great part of the food of the middle and lower ranks of people; and indeed till the general introduction of it into the highlands, which is not very remote, the poor and lower classes pined away near half their time in want and hunger, the country being so little adapted, both from soil and climate, to the growth of grain. The rents have been doubled, and in some places tripled, within the last forty years, but still the situation of the tenants is better than in many parts of the highlands, Lord Breadalbane giving considerable encouragements by leases, without which it is impossible for a tenant to make any advantageous improvements. The wages of servants employed in all the operations of husbandry, have been progressively quadruple what they were fifty years since. The wages of a man-servant boarded in the family are from 5*l.* to 10*l.*; a female from two to four guineas.*

A CONSIDERABLE number of the inhabitants on the banks of the lake, employ themselves in fishing. A little below Dalnaly, at a place called Catnish, great numbers of salmon are taken in the Urchay, in the following manner. A rock crosses the bed of the river, nearly from side to side. Its height is such, that few fish can overleap the torrent; which, after rains, rushes forcibly

* Stat. Account.

into the pool below. Many of the salmon, in attempting to leap, fall into a basket fixed transversely, and in this way considerable numbers are taken: but the greatest slaughter is effected in a different manner. On the side of the river there is an opening between the rock and the bank; here a wicker gate is fixed, that can be opened and shut at pleasure. Several yards above this entry, the stream is secured by a similar barrier. When the water is high and turbid the fish are let in below, and when the fisherman is satisfied with the number let in, he shuts the doors of his prison, and with his salmon spear drags them out at his leisure. Scores are sometimes thus destroyed in a day.

THE old people in this neighbourhood, in general speak only Gaelic, but the younger ones can most of them speak some English, which they learn at school; and it must be observed, that where the English is known in the highlands, it is spoken with much greater correctness and purity than in the south of Scotland, and without the tone and accent of the lowlanders. Superstition is fast wearing away, at least where the clergy are intelligent and liberal, and take pains to discourage such notions, which is particularly the object of the minister of Glenorchay: still, however, most of them believe in witches and ghosts, and some point out with firm credulity, green spots of ground

WHERE still, 'tis said, the fairy people meet,
Beneath each birken shade on mead or hill.

There each trim lass that skims the milky store,
 To the swart tribes, their creamy bowl allots:
 By night they sip it round the cottage door,
 While airy minstrels warble jocund notes.*

In some parts of the country, the funeral dances are still kept up. These commence on the evening of the death. All the neighbours attend the summons; and the dance, accompanied by a solemn melancholy strain called a lament, is begun by the nearest relatives, who are joined by most of those present: this is repeated every evening till the interment. These dances may perhaps be intended as an expression of joy that their friend is removed from this vale of tears and misery, to a better state of existence. We find that most rude nations give vent to their feelings, both on joyful and sorrowful occasions, by dancing and music; in this manner they celebrate the death of warriors, and excite each other to suffer with unshaken firmness. There is something in the idea of dancing to express sorrow, against which the mind accustomed to modern refinement in manners, naturally seems to revolt, but it conveys no absolute impropriety, nor in its consequences does it lead to any moral turpitude or impiety. I cannot say so much with respect to another prevailing custom in the highlands, which is certainly highly indecorous, and destructive of every good principle; I allude to their habit of drinking at funerals. A neighbourhood scarcely ever, I believe, assemble upon these occasions, without raising their

* Collins's Ode on the popular Superstitions of the Highlands.

drooping spirits above the ordinary pitch, by whisky, the favourite liquor of the country. The following circumstance was related to us by an eye-witness.

A PERSON originally from Oban, had spent some time in the neighbourhood of Inverary, in the exercise of some mechanic art; and dying there, his corpse, at his own request, was carried by his friends towards Oban for interment. On a hill between Inverary and Loch Awe, just above Port Sonachan, they were met by the relations of the deceased from Oban, who came to convey the corpse the remainder of the way. The parting could not take place without a glass of spirits, that had been plentifully provided by the Oban party; and before they separated, above forty corpses were to be carried down the hill, in which, however, animation was only suspended, for they all recovered the next day.

In this, and many other parts of the highlands, a glass of whisky is drank the first thing in the morning, and you are seldom allowed the privilege of a refusal, however unaccustomed to such a mode of living; for a highlander would not think he had discharged the duties of hospitality, if he let you leave his house without it,

In the highlands, the breakfast is the principal meal. Accustomed to be out among the hills, shooting or hunting, a highland gentleman seldom thinks of dinner. On this account, the breakfast table is plentifully stored with all, or most of the

following articles:—Tea, oat cakes, and biscuits, for wheat bread is seldom to be seen; butter, cheese, eggs, hung-beef, broiled salmon, or kepper as it is called, ham, tongues, marmalade, honey, and fresh herrings where they can be had. Wherever you call, you are presented with spirits, except in the poorer cottages, where they offer milk. These cottages are in general miserable habitations. They are built of round stones, without any cement, thatched with sods, and sometimes heath: they are generally, though not always, divided by a wicker partition into two apartments, in the larger of which the family reside; it serves likewise as a sleeping room for them all. In the middle of this room is the fire made of peat, placed on the floor; and over it, by means of a hook, hangs the pot for dressing the victuals. There is frequently a hole in the roof to allow exit to the smoke, but this is not directly over the fire, on account of the rain, and very little of the smoke finds its way out of it, the greatest part, after having filled every corner of the room, coming out of the door, so that it is almost impossible for any one unaccustomed to it, to breathe in the hut. The other apartment, to which you enter by the same door, is reserved for cattle and poultry, when these last do not choose to mess and lodge with the family.

AT Dalmaly we saw, for the first time, a woman who had her cloak fastened by a large silver broach, of a circular form, about three inches in diameter, such as described by Mr. PENNANT: we had afterwards, in the course of our journey, an

opportunity of seeing several of them. They were made long since, of the silver found in the hills, or procured from the lead of the country.

ABOUT a quarter of a mile eastward from the inn of Dalmaly, is the well of St. Connan: the water is remarkably light and pure, but does not appear to be impregnated with any mineral. St. Connan was the tutelar saint of the country. He lived near the well, and blessed the spring. On a little eminence hard by, in a humble cot, about twenty-five years since, dwelt a poor old man, principally supported by the well of St. Connan. The whole day he sat, generally at the door of his cot, ready to give passengers a draught of his favourite spring, for which he generally received some small consideration. It is almost incredible what quantities he himself daily drank, for the space of forty-four years that he lived near the well. He never had a complaint; and arrived at the age of eighty-six, in the exercise of all his mental faculties. The evening before he died, he was seen drinking at the well as usual; but though this practice had prevented disease, it could not save him from the hand of death. He retired to his cell, and in the morning was found dead in his bed. A few shillings were found in an old rag beside him. He had exacted a promise from the minister of the parish, that no one after him should occupy the hut; and about this he discovered an anxiety not to be accounted for. The day he was buried, the hut was demolished. It would not, indeed, as Dr. M'Intire observes, have been easy to have

found a new occupant, for the whole inside of his solitary habitation was lined with fragments of coffins, brought from the church-yard year after year, as repairs were needed.*

We left the Manse of Glenorchay about noon, on our way to Oban. Mr. M'Intire very politely accompanied us to Taynuilt, an inn about fourteen miles distant, where we proposed to dine. We had a most romantic ride, the whole road lying close to the banks of Loch Awe, and the fine rapid river that runs out of the north side of the lake, into Loch Etive; on our right were rugged mountains, whose bases were covered with wood, and whose lofty summits were crowned with clouds, depositing their watery loads that came in the form of cascades, many of which were very beautiful: on our left, we had the lake with its beautiful islands.

On a peninsula stand the ruins of Kilchurn Castle, which, as you wind along, appears under a variety of pleasing points of view, but the finest and most striking is at the distance of about four miles from Dalmaly. Here we had a noble expanse of water before us, a distinct view of the castle and peninsula in the middle, and in the distance, Benloi, and several high mountains, with the opening of the vale of Glenorchay.

THIS castle was built by the lady of Sir Colin Campbell, about the year 1440, while he was engaged in the holy wars.

* Stat. Account.

In solitary retirement she here mourned his absence, and waited his return. It was afterwards much enlarged, and became the chief residence of the Earls of Breadalbane. In the year 1745, a part of it was garrisoned by the king's forces, in order to defend this pass into the highlands, and secure the tranquillity of the country. This magnificent seat, however, is fast tumbling down, and is a melancholy monument of the mutability of human grandeur, and of the all-destructive hand of Time.

WHAT does not fade? The tower that long had stood
 The crush of thunder, and the warring winds,
 Shook by the slow, but sure destroyer, Time,
 Now hangs in doubtful ruins o'er its base.*

ON a small island, not far from the castle, called *Fraoch Ellan*, are likewise the ruins of an ancient castle; much smaller, however, than that of Kilchurn. In the year 1267, this little island, with its fortress, and some contiguous lands, were granted by Alexander the Third, to Gilbert M'Naughtan, the chief of the clan, on condition that he should entertain the king, whenever he passed that way.

FRAOCH-ELLAN was, says Mr. Pennant, the Hesperides of this country. "The fair Mego longed for the delicious fruit of the isle, guarded by a dreadful serpent: Fraoch, who had long loved the maid, goes to gather the fruit. By the rustling of the

* Armstrong.

leaves, the serpent is awaked from its sleep. It attacked the hero, who perished in the conflict: the monster was also destroyed. Mego did not long survive the death of her lover." This is the story sung in the Erse ballads, handed down by tradition from time immemorial.*

WE travelled for several miles under the high and rugged mountain Cruachan, through woods of hazel and birch, which skirt its base. The perpendicular height of this mountain, as measured by Colonel WATSON, is 3390 feet above the level of the sea, and the circumference at the base exceeds twenty miles. Cruachan, says Dr. M'Intire, is the weather-gage of the people within view of its lofty summit. Before the storm, "the spirit of the mountain shrieks," and its head and sides are enveloped with clouds.

ON the summit of this lofty mountain was the fatal spring, from which, according to a tradition in this part of the country, attributed to Ossian, issued the beautiful lake Awe.

"BERA, the aged, dwelt in the cave of the rock. She was the daughter of Griannan the sage. Long was the line of her fathers, and she was the last of her race. Large and fertile were her possessions; her's the beautiful vales below, and her's the cattle which roamed on the hills around. To Bera was committed the charge of that awful spring, which, by the appoint-

* This translation of it is by the learned Dr. Smith, of Campbeltown,

ment of fate, was to prove so fatal to the inheritance of her fathers, and to her father's race.

“BEFORE the sun should withdraw his beams, she was to cover the spring with a stone, on which sacred and mysterious characters were impressed. One night this was forgot by the unhappy Bera: overcome with the heat and chace of the day, she was seized with sleep before the usual hour of rest. The confined waters of the mountain burst forth into the plain below, and covered the large expanse now known by the name of the lake of Awe. The third morning, Bera awaked from her sleep. She went to remove the stone from the spring; but behold no stone was there! She looked to the inheritance of her tribe; she shrieked! The mountain shook from its base! Her spirit retired to the ghosts of her fathers, in their light airy halls.”

THIS tale is repeated and sung in the original by many persons in this neighbourhood. They tell several other tales concerning the same Bera, but by no means in so elegant a manner; the preceding story was woven from the raw material in Ossian's loom of fancy, but the others are the rough manufacture of the peasantry. The residence of Bera was said to be on the highest mountains; that she could step with ease, and in a moment, from one district to another; and, when offended, that she caused a flood to come from the mountains, which destroyed the corn, and laid the grounds under water. This may probably allude to water-spouts, which in this country often burst sud-

denly on the hills, tearing down a great part of their side, and sweeping gravel and stones, and water into the plain. These wonderful effects would readily, in the dark ages, be attributed to the agency of spirits and giants.

PROCEEDING farther down the banks of the lake, we saw the beautiful isle of Inishail, on which are still visible the ruins of a monastery. Concerning this religious house, record and tradition are almost equally silent. It is said to have been a house of nuns, memorable for the sanctity of their lives and purity of their manners; at the Reformation, this religious house was suppressed, and temporalities granted to HAY, the abbot of Inchaffrey, who abjuring the former tenets of his religion, embraced the cause of the reformers. On the island is likewise a ruined chapel, which formerly belonged to the monastery, but was afterwards used as the parish church, the parish being called Inishail, from the island. In these days, on a Sunday, might be seen boats of pious people, landing in successive groups, and waiting the arrival of their pastor. But this being found inconvenient, and even dangerous in many instances, a place of worship was built nearly opposite to the island, on the side of the road between Inverary and Dalmaly. Though the parishes, both of Glenorchay and Inishail, are very extensive, yet they are conjoined, and under the pastoral care of Dr. Mac Intire.

THE great body of the lake runs directly westward by Hayfield, the seat of Mr. MACDOUGAL, very pleasantly situated; but a branch of it, on whose banks we rode, runs northward. This branch narrows very fast, but continues deep. From the road, the descent to the water is almost perpendicular, and yet there is no parapet wall, which renders it exceedingly dangerous for carriages, and even horses. After crossing a small bridge, under which a rapid torrent rolls, forming a fine cascade almost hid with wood, we saw two jutting promontories forming the termination of the lake, and the beginning of the river Awe. The opposite bank is very high, and almost perpendicular, yet its scanty herbage is cropped by sheep, whose bleatings we constantly heard, and by goats, which climb with ease these rugged steeps. In many places, mountain torrents, or probably water-spouts, have washed down immense quantities of gravel from the sides of the mountains.

THE rains here are almost incessant; the tops of the mountains being very seldom free from clouds, which pour down torrents. The showers indeed in summer do not, in general, last long, but they are continually falling, and the natives are so inured to them, that they call the weather fine, when a traveller from the south of England would scarcely venture out.*

* The great body of Cruachan is composed of a reddish porphyry, but near the bottom is found argillaceous schistus, intersected by veins of quartz, and lapis ollaris. Near Taynuilt I found some beautiful red jasper. At a small distance from the river

We now travelled along the banks of the Awe, which runs out of the lake with astonishing rapidity, roaring over rocks and loose stones. In this river are plenty of salmon, and we saw several persons employed in fishing. About half a mile below the origin of the river, on the opposite side, lay a large stone near the edge of the water; we could see plainly that this huge fragment had fallen from the rock above, at no great distance of time, for we could trace its marks on the steep side of the hill, and perceive the ruins of a cottage, which Mr. M'INTIRE informed us it had overturned in its course. I afterwards found the circumstance described in so interesting a manner in his father's Statistical Account, that I shall take the liberty of transcribing it.

“ A FEW years ago, in a cottage at the bottom of the steep hill, whose summit is one range of projecting rocks, a near and crashing noise was heard, resembling a clap of thunder. The cottager from a window beheld the face of the hill covered with detached masses of rock, bounding with velocity, and flying towards his slender and ill-constructed habitation. His wife had just gone out, and he heard her cries. A child stood at his knee, and another was asleep in a bed beside him. He sprung instantaneously to the door, with a child, as he thought, in each hand.

Awe, near the bridge, the ground is almost covered with fragments of porphyry, that have fallen from the neighbouring mountains. The basis of this porphyry is a kind of trap, of a dirty red colour, with fresh-coloured crystals of feldspar, some crystals of black shorl, and a very few of greenish coloured mica. This stone seems to constitute the greatest part of Cruachan, and the neighbouring mountains.

Scarce had he crossed the threshold, when an enormous stone passed through his house, in the very place where he and his children were a moment before. He missed a child, and no longer heard the voice of his wife. He looked into the ruins of his hut: found his child alive and unhurt, in a corner, whither it had been thrust by the fragments of the bed and furniture, displaced by the rock in its course. In a little the mother came to the scene. Their joy and gratitude were complete."

ABOUT twelve miles from Dalmaly, we crossed the river Awe by a bridge, above which is a little island; the road here is extremely romantic. The near hills are covered with birch, and the distant mountains have all the alpine grandeur that can be conceived; the valley is filled with a beautiful arm of the sea, called Loch Etive, into the side of which the river Awe pours the water of the lake. This place is called Bunaw. About 1753, a company from Lancashire erected a furnace for casting pig iron here, and obtained a long lease of several farms, for rearing wood, and grazing their work-horses. A part of the wood is cut down every year, and converted into charcoal, with which they are enabled to make extremely pure iron, the charcoal deoxydating the metal, and freeing it from its impurities much better than fossil coal. The iron ore is imported from the western coast of England, and other places. This work has been found highly beneficial to the poor natives, who find constant employment, humane treatment, and good wages in its various departments. About two miles after we crossed Awe-

bridge, we came to Taynuilt, a small and miserable looking village, with an inn of no very tempting aspect; the accommodations were, however, much better than we expected, and our fare was seasoned with good nature, and a wish to please; who then would not be pleased? Upon the whole, this day's ride was one of the most romantic and beautiful we had hitherto enjoyed. In the evening we walked out a little to take a view of the surrounding country, but the rain soon drove us back.

JULY 15. Breakfast dispatched, we took leave of our good-natured friend, Mr. M'Intire, and proceeded on our way to Oban, twelve miles distant from Taynuilt. Soon after quitting the inn, we saw on our left, on the top of a little hill, a cross, which had doubtless remained there since the days of popery, having escaped the ruthless hands of the disciples of John Knox: it was probably a monumental cross, such as is frequently met with in Spain, and other Catholic countries. Riding a little farther, we entered some very beautiful woods of birch; this light and elegant tree, so common in the highlands, is certainly entitled to the epithet beautiful, though not of the drooping or weeping kind, which we afterwards met with. The road continued extremely pleasant; the inequality of the ground sometimes rising into little hills, clothed with birch, and sometimes appearing in the form of abrupt rugged rocks, presented us every moment with new, grand, and interesting scenery. Now and then we had a peep of the salt-water lake Etive, down whose southern banks we were travelling: in several places to

LOCH ETIVE.

the right, and indeed on both sides of the road, are flat pieces of ground, with surfaces as level as a piece of water; these flat places are surrounded by hills, and we could have no doubt, from inspection, that they had formerly been lakes, which have been filled up through time. Many of them are peat-mosses, others form the finest meadows. These appearances are by no means peculiar to this part, but may be seen in almost every hilly country; and though the lakes in Scotland are almost without number, yet there is every reason to believe that they were formerly much more numerous than at present. In the course of our tour, we saw several instances of lakes now filling up.

LOCH ETIVE, or Etive, is a navigable inlet of the sea, near twenty miles long, but of very unequal breadth; its banks are pleasant, being indented into creeks and bays, affording safe anchorage in any wind whatever: they are delightfully variegated with hills and valleys, meadows and corn-fields, wood and water. There are several salmon fisheries on its banks, and in some seasons it is frequented by herrings. The extremity of the lake bends its course in a north-easterly direction, terminating in Glen Etie, a valley famous for being the residence of USNATH, the father of Nathos, Althos, and Ardán; the first of whom ran away with Darthula, wife of Cairbar, king of Ulster, in Ireland, which is the subject of one of Ossian's beautiful poems. The following is the outline of the story:

USNATH, laird of Eta, had three sons, Nathos, Althos, and Ardán, by Slissama, the daughter of Semo, and sister of the celebrated Cuchullin. The three brothers, when very young, went over to Ireland, by desire of their father, to learn the use of arms under their uncle Cuchullin, who made a great figure in that island. They were just landed in Ulster, when the news of Cuchullin's death arrived. Nathos, though very young, took the command of Cuchullin's army, made head against Cairbar the usurper, and defeated him in several battles. Cairbar at last having found means to murder Cormac, the lawful king, the army of Nathos changed sides, and their commander was obliged to return into Ulster, in order to pass over into Scotland.

DARTHULA, the daughter of Colla, who was betrothed to Cairbar, resided at that time in Selama, a castle in Ulster; she saw, loved, and fled with Nathos, intending to accompany him to his native country; but a storm rising at sea, they were unfortunately driven back on that part of the coast of Ulster, where Cairbar was encamped with his army, waiting for Fingal, the king of Morven, who meditated an expedition into Ireland, to re-establish the Scottish race of kings on the throne of Ulster. The three brothers, after having defended themselves for some time with great bravery, were overpowered and slain; DARTHULA standing near the body of her beloved Nathos, was reproached by Cairbar; she killed herself with an arrow, and fell upon the body of her lover. This last scene is thus beautifully described by the poet.

“DARTHULA stood in silent grief, beheld their fall; no tear was in her eye; but her look was wildly sad. Pale was her cheek; her trembling lips broke short a half-form'd word. Her dark hair flew on the wind. But gloomy Cairbar came. — ‘Where is thy lover now, the car-borne chief of Eta? Hast thou beheld the halls of Usnath, or the dark-brown hills of Fingal? My battle had roared on Morven, had not the winds brought back Darthula. Fingal himself would have been low, and sorrow dwelling in Selma.’ — Her shield fell from Darthula’s arm, her breast of snow appeared. It appeared, but it was stained with blood, for an arrow was fixed in her side. She fell on the fallen Nathos, like a wreath of snow. Her dark hair spreads on his face, and their blood is mixing round.”

IN Loch Etive is a small island, with the ruins of a house; it even now goes by the name of *Elain Usnicb*, or the island of Usnath. There is also in Glen Etie, a rock rising in the form of a cone, on the end of a high hill, which to this day retains the name of *Grianan Dearthuil*, signifying the basking place of Darthula, a name probably given in honour of this celebrated woman.

EMERGING from the birch woods, we continued our route, winding along the shore, over a road as good as need be: the ground produces tolerable crops of barley and oats for this part of the country; the return of oats being about five-fold. Shell

sand is used as manure; it is brought from a considerable distance in boats, and spread upon the surface with advantage. Wherever the ground, near the banks of the loch, is broken up by digging for gravel, or by any other circumstance; under the soil is found a bed of granite, and porphyric pebbles and sea-shells, exactly the same as on the shores of the lake, which shows that these parts have been formerly covered by the sea, or have formed the shore of the lake, that now appears to be gradually embanking itself and retiring, leaving a gentle slope of land towards it. In process of time, it is not improbable that this arm of the sea will leave a tract of fine land, unless where it is kept open by the river: that period must, however, be very remote. The pebbles on the shore consist almost entirely of the kind of porphyry already described, and a red granite. The *Cucubalus behen*, *Glaux maritima*, and *Statice armeria*, grow close to the shore in considerable quantities.

ABOUT seven miles from Taynuilt, Loch Etive contracts to a narrow channel, not much more than a musket shot over: this place is called *Connel*, which signifies in the Celtic tongue rage or fury, and is very descriptive of the place. A ridge of rugged and uneven rocks here run across two thirds of the channel, and occasion, at certain periods of the ebbing or flowing tide, such a rapid current, that no vessel with the freshest breeze can stem it. In the beginning of the flood, the tide runs up with great rapidity, and Loch Etive being at once swelled with the spring-tide from the ocean, and the water of Loch Awe, as

soon as the former begins to ebb, discharges itself with a violence and noise, unequalled by the loudest cataract, and which may be heard at the distance of many miles. This celebrated fall of salt water seems to be alluded to by Ossian :

“ These are not thy mountains, O Nathos!
Nor is that the roar of thy climbing waves.”*

THE ferry of Connel, though in appearance very formidable, is safe, owing to the skill of the boatmen. It may be crossed when some greater and seemingly smoother ones cannot. No accident has happened at it in the remembrance of any one living.

ABOUT two miles beyond Connel, on a promontory jutting into the lake, and almost insulated, is a bold rock, on which stand the remains of the castle of Dunstaffnage.

THIS castle is said to have been founded by EWIN, a Pictish monarch, cotemporary with Julius Cæsar, who called it after himself *Evonim*.† Whether this account be true or not, it is certainly a place of great antiquity, and one of the first seats of the Pictish and Scottish princes. In this castle was long preserved the famous stone chair, or seat, the palladium of North Britain, said to have been brought out of Spain, where it was first used as a seat of justice by Gathelus, who was coëval with Moses. It

* Darthula, a poem.

† Pennant's Tour, Part I. p. 410.



Drawn by W. H. W. 1846

Engraved by W. H. W. 1846

Donatello's 'Cupid'

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continued here, and was used as the coronation chair, till the time of Kenneth the Second, who removed it to Scone, from whence, as will be afterwards more particularly noticed, it was taken to Westminster Abbey, where it now I believe remains.

SOME of the ancient regalia were preserved till the present century, when the keeper's servants, during his infirm years, embezzled them for the sake of the silver ornaments. There remains, however, a battle-axe of beautiful workmanship, ornamented with silver.

THE castle is a square building, in a very ruinous state; at three of the corners are round towers; the entrance is at present towards the sea by a ruinous stair-case, and the whole has a most dreary and desolate appearance. Of this building, nothing remains but the outer walls, within which a house has been erected for the residence of the proprietor. The Duke of Argyle is hereditary keeper of the castle, but it is the property of a Mr. Campbell. It is situated on a rock, as was before observed, at the mouth of Loch Etive, whose waters expand within, to a beautiful bay, where ships may safely ride at anchor in all weathers.

IN 1307, Dunstaffnage Castle was possessed by ALEXANDER MACDOUGAL, Lord of Argyle, but was reduced that year by

ROBERT BRUCE. About the year 1455, it seems to have been the residence of the Lords of the Isles; for hither it was that James, the last Earl of Douglas, after his defeat in Annandale, fled to Donald, the *Regulus* of the time, and prevailed on him to take arms, and carry on a plundering war against his monarch, James the Second.*

At a little distance from the castle, is a small roofless chapel, of elegant workmanship, struggling hard against all-powerful time, to accompany this venerable seat of kings in ages yet to come. In this chapel, some of the kings of Scotland are said to have been buried. On the south-side of it is a rock, one point of which stretches towards the chapel. If a person be placed on one side of the point, and speaks aloud, the sound of his voice is heard on the other side, so distinctly reverberated from the chapel, as to make him imagine it comes from a person within the ruin. It is reported, that a few years since, a man contracted an illness, which terminated in death, on hearing a sermon on mortality read to him by an alarming voice, in the dusk of the evening, by a person who had concealed himself on the opposite side of the point. He believed that the address came from one of the dead in the chapel, warning him to prepare for death.

THERE is a custom still in use at Dunstaffnage, which expresses, in no unpleasing manner, at once the hospitality of the

* Pennant's Tour.

country, and the attachment of the people to their chief. When a company of unexpected strangers arrive, which is by no means uncommon in the highlands, a pole is immediately erected on the battlements of the castle, with a table-cloth affixed to it for a flag. This serves as a signal to the tenants of certain possessions, to bring fresh salmon, or any other fish that may be in season. Other tenants embrace that opportunity of showing their attachment, or paying their court to the laird, by presenting any thing that is rare, or which they think may be acceptable.*

WE were informed, that this ancient seat of kings, and the adjoining lands, were offered to sale: indeed, we were surprized to find many of the highland estates in the same situation, though till within these last fifty years, such a circumstance was seldom heard of; but then luxury had not reached these distant parts. Proprietors lived at home, and subsisted chiefly on the produce of their own lands, which enabled them to exercise a princely hospitality. They were beloved and revered by their tenants; but times are now changed: the highland lairds resort frequently to the metropolis, where their incomes will by no means support them in the style in which they think they have a right to appear. At present a purchaser might find at least 150,000*l.* worth of highland property in the market.† This, however;

* Newte's Tour.

† Smith's Agricultural Survey of Argyleshire.

VILLAGE OF OBAN.

though it is a private loss, may perhaps be considered as a public benefit. A spirit of industry and adventure is certainly excited, by the prospect of one day being able to obtain a spot of one's native land, which a person may call his own. The greatest evil that attends a change of property in these parts, is, that estates are often bought by strangers, who have no attachment to the country, and who do not therefore reside on them, but let them to tacksmen, who offer the greatest rent.

ABOUT three miles beyond Dunstaffnage, is Oban; the horse road from Dunstaffnage is bad and intricate, but before we entered the village, we had two or three fine views of the sea, confined by bold promontories.

OBAN is a small village on the sea-coast, hid from the Western Ocean by the island of Kerrera. Here is a fine bay, of a semi-circular form, from twelve to twenty fathoms deep, and large enough to contain five hundred sail of merchantmen. This bay has two entries, one from the south, and the other from the north: it is defended from the westerly winds, and the fury of the Atlantic, by Mull and other islands in front of it. The village has risen rapidly from a very small beginning. The first house of any consequence was built by a trading company of Renfrew, who used it as a store-room, Oban even then being considered as one of the most convenient situations in this coun-

try for trade. The next building was a custom-house, which was erected about thirty years ago. After the erection of this last building, when some little trade began to be carried on, from the convenient situation of the bay, and its vicinity to a populous country; the attention of the Duke of Argyle, Mr. Campbell of Dunstaffnage, and other persons interested in the prosperity of the village, was attracted, and they granted building leases to a considerable extent, since which time the buildings have annually increased.

OBAN is particularly indebted to two brothers of the name of STEVENSON. They settled there in 1778, and by their genius and industry, displayed in various branches of traffic, they have acquired handsome fortunes, while, at the same time, they have promoted the good of the country in no common degree. Indeed, Oban may look upon them as its founders; they commenced, and still carry on the business of ship-building. They have a considerable coasting trade, and deal in meal, kelp, cattle, hides, &c. besides supplying the islands, and a good part of the country, with various kinds of merchandize. Their attention to strangers is very pleasing, and I have myself to thank them for several marks of civility.

OBAN is admirably situated for a sea-port, and if proper attention were paid to it, might in time become a place of great consequence. It is particularly well calculated for a fishing station. But these, as Mr. Knox observes, are inferior considerations,

when compared with the national advantages that might be derived from this excellent harbour and road.

It is formed by nature, and by a combination of favourable circumstances, for being a principal harbour, a place of trade, and a central mart for the south highlands, and the different isles in its vicinity. It is defended from westerly and southerly winds by the isle of Kerrera, which, at a small distance, stretches directly across the bay. It lies in the tract of fishing vessels and coasters, passing to and from the north highlands; and being situated near the entrance of the great Loch Linnhe, has a communication with an extensive range of country, and should ever the navigation along the chain of lakes, from Inverness to the Atlantic, be rendered practicable, its importance will be very much increased.

HERE, also, as the above-mentioned gentleman remarks, a royal dock and arsenal might be erected. It is well known, that the best designs of government for annoying its enemies, or defending our colonies, or trade, are sometimes frustrated by means of contrary winds, which prevent our fleets and transports from getting out of the harbours, and particularly from getting round to the land's end. We also know, that the enemy gain information through the medium of newspapers, or otherwise, of almost every equipment and motion of our ships and troops, by which they are enabled to counteract our designs with similar squadrons, or by secret dispatches to commanding

officers abroad. There is no doubt that the loss and delays to the nation arising from these circumstances are very considerable, but might in some degree be remedied by having a royal dock-yard and arsenal on the west coast of Scotland, where small squadrons and transports with troops could be secretly fitted out, and from whence they could sail at all times of the year, and with every wind that blows.

By these means a fleet with troops might reach the West Indies or America, before an enemy could have the smallest intelligence of the design, which would undoubtedly give our fleets and armies a decided advantage.

OBAN is unquestionably the best place for such a dock. From its situation, it has a speedy communication with Glasgow, by the Clyde, from whence stores, &c. might be conveyed, especially were the Crinan Canal completed. Loch Linnhe is navigable to Fort William, and from thence is a good military road to Fort Augustus, as well as to Fort George, where a considerable body of troops always is or might be kept, as these forts are capable of lodging, on an emergency, 6000 men. These could be conveyed from Fort William to Oban by water; or, should the wind be unfavourable, they might easily march by land, the roads being sufficiently good.*

* Knox's Tour through the highlands of Scotland.

WE took a late dinner at Oban, and the evening being remarkably fine, and the wind fair, although it was later than could have been wished, we determined to go over to Mull, for fear of being detained at Oban by bad weather. The distance from the village to the ferry is near two miles, the ferry lying to the southward of it. We passed in our way a lake of considerable extent, almost filled up with reeds, whose sloping banks are well cultivated: it might be drained at a trifling expense, and a quantity of good land gained, a circumstance of no small importance to Oban. The rivulet which runs from it into the sea, divides the Duke of Argyle's property from the lands of Dunstaffnage.

ARRIVED at the ferry, we found that the boat which was to take us to the island of Kerrera, was on the other side of the sound in that island; we had therefore to hail it, and while it was coming over, our attention was directed northwards to a very picturesque view. Fine rugged promontories confine the flat expanse of water in all manner of forms. On one of these stands the castle of Dunolly; this, with the islands of Lismore and Kerrera, bound the near view, while the distance is formed by the lofty mountains of Morven.

WE were ferried over to the island of Kerrera in a few minutes, the distance being scarcely a mile; we crossed the island by a hilly and very indifferent road, to the Mull ferry on the other side. Kerrera is about four miles in length, and two in



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breadth. It is the property of Mr. MACDOUGAL, of Dunolly, excepting one farm belonging to the Earl of Breadalbane. A son of Mr. Macdougals resides on the island, in the only good house, which is nearly opposite Oban, and is distinctly seen in the view from the ferry. The island, which is very hilly, contains seven hamlets, or groups of miserable huts, and is divided into as many farms, each of which supports about thirty head of cattle. We saw several patches of oats and barley looking tolerably well. Potatoes also had a promising appearance, and flax is cultivated here, as in most parts of the highlands. There are no inclosures, so that herds are continually employed to keep the cattle from the corn, and from encroaching on the different farms, a mode very common in most parts of Scotland; and very prejudicial to agricultural improvements.

FROM Kerrera to Mull is eight or ten miles, and in about an hour and a half, ourselves and horses were fairly landed there; the evening was delightfully fine, the water still, and a pleasing softness thrown by twilight over the distant hills, rendered the scenery really sublime.

WHEN we landed in Mull, we were directed to Achnacraig, an inn about half a mile from the shore; we found the accommodations for ourselves tolerable, but those for our horses very bad indeed. The stable was a little low hut, with a floor of mud, without any divisions or stalls; we could procure no oats for their food, nor straw for their bedding, but after a consider-

able dispute between Mr. Watts and the woman who acted as hostler, whether it was proper to give "the food of christians to horses," we got them each a mess of oatmeal and water. Indeed, in these highlands horses seldom taste oats; the small ponies, which are by much the more proper for the country, being a very hardy race, require little or no attention.

JULY 16. Soon after we had breakfasted, we went to pay a visit to the Rev. ALEXANDER FRASER, minister of the parish of Torosay, to whom I had a letter of introduction. The distance was only two miles, but as the road was intricate, we were advised to take a guide. Wishing to rest our horses, we left them at the inn, and we had reason to think ourselves fortunate in so doing, for the road, if it might be called one, was so very bad and rugged, that it would scarcely have been possible for horses, unaccustomed to it, to make their way. The steep rocky mountains are chiefly covered with heath, though there are some small patches of pasture, and a little of the poorest corn I ever saw, seldom yielding in the best years more than three seeds for one. Very few of the inhabitants can speak any English, and we found it impossible to gain information from our guide, either concerning surrounding objects, or any other circumstance. We passed a man who was making ropes of heath; he desisted from his work when we came up, and we could not, by any signs or endeavours, make him understand that we wished him to resume it, in order that we might see the manner of making them. Necessity is justly called the

mother of invention; for who that had been accustomed only to see the usual manufacture of ropes, could have supposed that the rough twigs of heath would form a rope as strong, as durable, and nearly as pliant, as hemp.

As we passed through a village, consisting of twenty or thirty miserable looking huts, the name of which is Killean, a man followed us, and asked us in broken English, if we had got any tobacco, of which they are extravagantly fond. Unfortunately, we were not able to gratify his palate; but, as the best substitute, I gave him a little snuff out of a quantity which I had brought with me, hearing that the highlanders were very fond of it.

Mr. FRASER resides at a very short distance from this village; he received us very politely, and made an apology for his habitation, which, it must be confessed, is a dwelling by no means suitable to the situation of a minister, or a person of liberal education, being very little, if at all, better than the common huts of the country. He told us that he had entered a plea against the heritors for a glebe and manse, but that he had not been able to obtain either. Surely the matter has never come properly to the ear of the noble Duke, who is the principal proprietor, otherwise, from the acknowledged attention and goodness of his Grace, he would never allow a minister and his family to be so wretchedly accommodated.

WE found Mrs. Fraser very much indisposed; Mrs. Fraser's brother, who had been on a visit with them, was just recovering from a *typhus* fever; one of his children had died a short time before; and his eldest son, a very quick and lively boy, was just recovering from a severe indisposition. They attributed their complaints, and I think with great reason, to the badness and dampness of their accommodation. There is at present no medical man in the island, so that those who want assistance, are obliged to go to Inverary, there being no surgeon of eminence nearer; an immense distance from some parts of the island, in which, dangerous sounds and ferries are to be crossed, and a great way travelled over by land. Even after this they can only give an imperfect representation of the case, for no common person can offer a sufficient inducement to a medical man to undertake so long and dangerous a journey to visit a patient. It might perhaps be imagined, that their simple lives would secure them in a great measure from diseases; and this undoubtedly would be the case, were their accommodations more comfortable; but their cottages are wretched and miserable in the extreme. Indeed, few gentlemen would suffer their hounds to be lodged as these poor people are. That they are not healthy I am certain, for I had scarce been an hour at Mr. Fraser's, before I had above a dozen patients from the small village of Killcan, who had in some way heard I was a physician, and for whom I prescribed such simple remedies as I thought they were likely to procure. Mrs. Fraser keeps a few medicines, and, with the help of Buchan, administers to their distresses.

A LITTLE below Mr. Fraser's house, at the bottom of the hill, is a beautiful salt-water lake: its sloping banks are fringed with wood, the growth of which is, however, very stunted. The name of this arm of the sea is *Loch Buie*.*

THIS, as well as some other lakes in Mull, are frequented by herring, which sometimes almost fill the whole loch, but are of little use to the inhabitants on account of the difficulty of procuring salt. Great numbers were caught the last year, and would have been sold to advantage, but the greater part were suffered to rot for want of this article. The duty on salt is so high, that herring cannot be cured unless it be taken off. This having been represented to Government, the salt is now sold free of duty, for the purpose of curing fish only; but this privilege requires so many forms, that it is impossible to comply with them, and fish to advantage.

IN order to procure salt for the purpose of curing fish, those who want it are obliged to go for it to Oban, and at the custom-house make oath, that the salt which they purchase is for the curing of herring only; they must at the same time give a bond, which is not discharged till they take the herring, and what salt may remain above the quantity allowed for a certain number, to Oban, a distance of twenty miles. Indeed, from many parts of the island, they are obliged to go double that distance

* Loch Buie signifies the yellow lake; but the reason of the epithet yellow, is not very evident.

to a custom-house, for a few baskets of salt, and return to the same custom-house with the little fish they have cured, or perhaps with the salt without any fish at all. Besides, the people will never go to a distant custom-house for salt, till the herring appear in the lochs, from the well-grounded fear that the fishing may fail; and that having no proper place in which to keep the salt, it may in different ways be embezzled, and they incur all the penalties of the salt laws. Even when the herring do appear, the weather may be bad, the distance of the custom-house great, the salt damaged in their open boats, and the herring in a great measure disappear; or at least much valuable time be lost before they return home to the fishing.

BESIDES this loch, there are some in this island much larger, which are resorted to by the herring; such as Loch Screiden, and Loch Nakell or Loch Nagaul, the latter of which runs deep into the island, almost bisecting it. These lochs, which are often filled with herring, and would be a source of wealth to the inhabitants, and afford employment to many who are obliged to seek it at a distance, are rendered of no use by the salt laws. The want of salt is likewise severely felt by these poor people, when they lay up their winter stock of provisions; and it is scarcely to be wondered at that they should yield to the temptation of smuggling, to which they are in a manner forced by imperious necessity. They pay as high for the smuggled salt, as they do for that which they procure from Oban, for smugglers always take advantage of their situation, and endeavour by high prices to

indemnify themselves for the risk they run; but the people thus get the salt without the tedious formalities, the loss of time, or the risk which attends procuring it in the regular way.

I THINK it is highly probable that the Scottish fisheries can never be carried to any very great extent, till not only these grievances be removed, but till the importation of rock-salt from Cheshire be allowed. In Scotland, salt can neither be manufactured sufficiently cheap, nor sufficiently pure. To understand this, it is only necessary to observe, that the sea-water on the coast of Scotland, and particularly on the west coast, does not in general contain three parts in a hundred of salt; so that in the manufacture of this article, in order to procure three tons of it, ninety-seven tons of water must be evaporated, which consumes much time, and is likewise very expensive, where fuel is so difficult to be procured as it is in most parts of the highlands of Scotland.

BESIDES, the salt extracted from sea-water is not pure muriat of soda, or the kind of salt proper for curing fish, and salt provisions in general, but contains a considerable quantity of muriat of magnesia and muriat of lime, as well as some sulphat of magnesia. These are called deliquescent salts, because they attract moisture from the air. In whatever state of dryness they may be procured by evaporation, when exposed for a short time to the atmosphere, they become soft, moist, and at last perfectly fluid; and it is this circumstance which renders them unfit for the

curing of provisions, because when they are in a state of fluidity, they not only wash off the common salt, but the water which they bring in contact with the provisions becomes decomposed, and rapidly promotes putrefaction. It is true that the salt might, in a great measure, be freed from these impurities, by repeated solution and crystalization, and particularly by precipitating the lime and magnesia by the mineral alkali (*soda*), but these methods would be attended with vastly too much expense, to answer the purposes for which salt is wanted.

BUT besides the salt which exists in sea-water, adulterated by the above-mentioned substances, there are large quantities in the bowels of the earth, in a rock or fossil state, extremely pure and fit for any purpose for which common salt is wanted..

AMONG the salt mines of chief note, are those of Poland, which are very extensive; from these the Dutch have chiefly procured the salt used in curing their fish, which used to give them the command of the markets. But Nature has favoured us with immense quantities of rock-salt in some parts of England, particularly at Nantwich, Northwich, and Middlewich, in Cheshire.* If it were allowed to import this salt to Scotland in

* The Cheshire salt-mines were discovered about the end of the last century, since which time the salt has continued to be dug up, and sent in large masses to the ports of Liverpool and Bristol, where it is dissolved in sea-water, and made into common salt by boiling; because, being tinged with a reddish kind of clay, without this

the rock or fossil state, then by boiling it with sea-water, as is done at Liverpool, Bristol, and some other places, a pure and fine grained salt would be procured at a trifling expense, for

operation it would not be sufficiently pure for common purposes, as is the case with some foreign rock-salt, which requires no other preparation than a gross pulverization. The descent into these mines is by means of a bucket; they are 150 feet below the surface of the earth, and the mine looks like a cathedral, supported by rows of pillars, with a roof which resembles crystal, composed of the rock-salt, transparent, and glittering from the numerous candles of the workmen, labouring with their pickaxes in digging it away.

But the most stupendous mines of rock-salt that have ever been discovered, are at Wiliska, a small town about five miles from Cracow in Poland. This town is entirely undermined, and cavities extend to a considerable distance round it. The stranger is surprized on his descent to the bottom, to find a kind of subterraneous commonwealth, consisting of a great many families, who have their peculiar laws and policy. Here are likewise public roads and carriages, horses being employed to draw the salt to the mouths of the mine, from which it is taken up by engines; these horses, when once they are down, never more see the light of the sun; and even many of the people seem buried alive in this strange abyss; some being born there, and never stirring out, though others have opportunities of breathing the fresh air of the fields, and enjoying the sun's light.

The subterraneous passages or galleries are very spacious, and in many of them chapels are hewn out of the rock-salt; in these are set up crucifixes and images of saints, before which lights are kept constantly burning. The places where the salt is hewn out, and the empty cavities from which it has been formerly taken, are called chambers; in some of them, where the water has stagnated, the bottoms and sides are covered with very thick incrustations, consisting of thousands of crystals of salt one upon another, each crystal is of a beautiful cubic figure, and some of them weigh upwards of a pound. When the candles happen to be brought into these cavities, the numerous rays of light reflected by these crystals, emit a surprizing lustre.

In some parts of the mine, huge columns of salt are left standing to support the rock. The number of miners employed is between four and five hundred; but the whole amount of the men who are about the work, is near seven hundred.

In this subterraneous town is a statue, which is considered by the immured inhabitants as the actual transformation of Lot's wife into a pillar of salt; and as this statue appears either dry or moist, the state of the weather above ground is inferred. The windings of these mines are so numerous and intricate, that workmen have fre-

very nearly the same quantity of fuel would evaporate the water from a saturated solution of salt, as when it only contains three parts in the hundred; and therefore, instead of obtaining only three tons of salt by evaporating ninety-seven of water, they would obtain eighteen, and of a quality which would enable them to cure fish equally well as any other nation. At present, in order to obtain proper salt, they are obliged to import bay salt from Portugal, for which not less than 30,000*l.* is annually paid.* This sum might be saved, and the smuggling trade which is at present carried on to the west of Scotland by the Irish, who have rock salt duty free, would be cut up by the roots.

THERE are now several mills in the island, where the oats are ground into meal, a part being taken by the miller for his

quently lost their way, their lights having burnt out, and they perished before they could be found. Dr. Darwin gives the following beautiful description of these mines:

Thus cavern'd round in Cracow's mighty mines,
 With crystal walls a gorgeous city shines;
 Scoop'd in the briny rock long streets extend
 Their hoary course, and glittering domes ascend.
 Form'd in pellucid salt, with chisel nice,
 The pale lamp glimmering through the sculptur'd ice,
 With wild reverted eyes fair *Lotha* stands,
 And spreads to heaven, in vain, her glassy hands;
 Cold streams condense upon her pearly breast,
 And the big tear rolls lucid down her vest.
 Far gleaming o'er the town transparent fanes
 Rear their white towers, and wave their golden vanes;
 Long lines of lustres pour their trembling rays,
 And the bright vault returns the mingled blaze.

Bot. Garden, Part I. p. 70.

* Newte's Tour.

trouble; many of them, however, still use the Quern in cases of necessity, i. e. when they are in immediate want of meal; and some do it to save the mulcture, which they can ill spare. As we had never seen one of these rude mills, Mr. Fraser conducted us to a hut in the village of Killean, where he knew they possessed one; when we came to the place, the Quern had been lent to a neighbour; that neighbour had lent it to another; that to a third; at last, however, we procured a sight of it, and were shown the manner of using it. The Quern consists of two circular pieces of stone, generally of grit or granite, about twenty inches in diameter. In the lower stone is a wooden peg, rounded at the top; on this the upper stone is nicely balanced, so as just to touch the lower one, by means of a piece of wood fixed in a large hole in this upper piece, but which does not fill the hole, room for feeding the mill being left on each side: it is so nicely balanced, that though there is some friction from the contact of the two stones, yet a very small momentum will make it revolve several times, when it has no corn in it. The corn being dried, two women sit down on the ground, having the Quern between them; the one feeds it, while the other turns it round, relieving each other occasionally, and singing some Celtic songs all the time. The following sketch will convey some idea of it.



THIS simple mill seems to have been used by many rude nations. Some of them have been found in Yorkshire, and in the course of the southern Roman wall, between Solway Firth, and the eastern sea, several have been dug up. It would seem that the prophecy of Christ concerning the fate of two women grinding at a mill, refers to the Quern, which might be the mill used at that time.

IN the early states of society, machines are very rude; by degrees invention improves them, and thus what was serious and severe labour, becomes at last mere children's play. This needs no other illustration than the spinning of flax and cotton, which in the present improved state of machinery is done by children, and in such a manner that a child will now do the work of twenty grown persons formerly. By means of a corn mill, water or wind will do the work of a hundred Querns.

As it is not easy to procure shoes in this island, and when procured they are very expensive, the country people make themselves brogues, a rude kind of shoes, made of skins which they tan with the bark of a diminutive willow that grows in great quantity in the islands. They sew them with thongs of leather, which stand the wetness of the country much better than hempen thread. Indeed, many of the people make the whole of their cloathing: they cultivate flax,* which they

* In most parts of the highlands, flax grows exceedingly well, and was the culture of it properly managed, few things would contribute more to the advantage of this country, than raising considerable quantities of it. If the culture of this plant was

macerate and heckle themselves as well as they can; they then spin it, and as there is generally a weaver or two in every village, they are thus provided with a coarse kind of linen at a trifling expense, if we do not reckon their labour, which they cannot employ to better advantage. Some of them have wheels, but we saw several women spinning, as we walked along, with the distaff and spindle, which in most countries is as little known as the Quern, though it was once as common.

THE sheep supply them with wool for their upper garments; this when spun and woven, is fulled, or walked, as they term it, in a particular manner by the women. As soon as the good woman of a house receives a piece of cloth from a weaver, she gives notice to her female neighbours, who repair to her, to the number of twelve or fifteen, and assist her in fulling it. For this purpose they sit round a table, and rub the cloth hard

extended as far as the other operations of the farmer would allow; or if the ground when tilled was let to the poor, or to persons who, as in Holland, would make it their sole business to attend to it; it would prove an immense benefit to the country, and furnish employment to the female part of the poor, in every stage of the manufacture. When the crop is tolerably good, the produce of a single acre may be estimated at 15*l.* standing in the field—when dressed at 20*l.*—when spun into yarn, at more than 60*l.*—and when wrought into cloth and bleached, at more than 100*l.* In this way 1000 acres would yield materials for a yearly produce of 100,000*l.* See Smith's Agricultural Survey of Argyleshire, where the reader will find some good directions for the culture and management of flax. Were this system adopted, it would employ a great number of hands, which, for want of opportunities to exercise their industry, annually emigrate from the highlands to the low country, to England, and to different parts of the world; besides an immense sum would be saved to the nation, which is annually sent out to Ireland, to Holland, and to France, for the purchase of linens, lawns, cambrics, &c.

against a board, squeezing and folding it with their hands as the hatters do, till it has nearly acquired the requisite closeness and softness; they finish the operation by putting the board and cloth upon the ground, sitting round it, and working it with their feet, one against another. It is this part of the operation which is properly called walking, and it is on this account that fulling mills, in which water and machinery are made to do the work of these women, are in Scotland and the north of England, frequently called walk-mills. While they are engaged in this operation, they sing some Celtic songs in praise of Fingal or other heroes, often arriving at a high degree of enthusiasm.

In mentioning these songs, it may not be improper to observe, that both on the main land, and in the several glens of this island, there are persons who can repeat several entire poems of Ossian: of this I have been assured by the ministers and other gentlemen of veracity. These traditional tales, similar ones to which may be found among almost all rude nations, have been handed down from generation to generation, but are now wearing out very fast; for this, various reasons might be assigned; among others, the remoteness of the time, which renders the circumstances less and less interesting in every succeeding age; and several of the inhabitants having been taught to read, can obtain entertainment from books, and afford it to others; so that had not the industry of Mr. MACPHERSON and Dr. SMITH preserved these relics, we should soon in all probability have entirely lost them.

THE cottages in Mull, which are generally disposed in little hamlets without the least regularity, and which have been called showers or sprinklings of huts, are extremely poor indeed, being little, if at all, better than the cabins of the South Sea islanders, or the wigwams of the American Indians. I have before described a highland hut, but those in the islands are much worse than any we had seen on the main land. They usually consist, like the latter, of two wretched apartments; one of which serves the family, like the cobbler's shop, "for parlour, kitchen, and hall." They are generally built of round stones or pebbles, without any cement, and therefore not well calculated to exclude the inclemencies of the weather; numbers in the island are however built of earth, which I should think the warmer of the two. The floor consists of the native ground, from which the grass has been trodden by the inhabitants: these floors are in general damp, and in wet weather quite miry. In the middle of the floor, as was observed in the description of the other cottages, they make a fire of peats, over which, by an iron hook that comes from the roof, they hang their iron pot. In many cottages there is a hole in the roof for the exit of the smoke, in others not; but in every one the apartment is filled with smoke, which finds its way out at the door: this opening, which is only about five feet high, is generally closed by a door of boards, but in many parts of Mull, particularly near Aros, they use a wicker door, or osier hurdle. In the side of the house is a small opening, about a foot square, which serves as a window; this is sometimes closed by a thick pane of glass, sometimes by a wooden shutter, which is left open in the day. Round

the sides of the room are ranged the little cribs for the beds, which are generally composed of heath, with the roots placed downward and tops upward. Above these beds are generally laid some poles, and upon these some turf, which forms a kind of shelf, where they can stow their lumber, and which likewise prevents the rain that gets through the roof, from falling upon the beds. The cottages are generally thatched with fern or heath, and sometimes with straw; the thatch is kept on by ropes of heath stretched by stones tied to the ends, which hang down the side of the cottage. The representation of one here given, though better than they generally are, may serve to convey some idea of these habitations. It is the sketch of a blacksmith's house. The roofs are often covered with turf instead of thatch.



THE whole inside of these huts, and particularly the roof, is lined with soot, and drops of a viscid reddish fluid, (pyrolignous acid, I believe) hang from every piece of wood supporting the roof. This is not the description of a single cottage more miserable than the rest, but applies pretty exactly to most of them, for we had the curiosity to enter and examine numbers of them.

It is not surprizing that their cottages should be unhealthy, and particularly fatal to children, who require an air of great purity. I was informed by some of the ministers, that not more than one-third of the children born arrive at the age of twelve years, whereas in country situations in the north of England, it is not usual for one in twenty to die before that age. Little attention is here paid to the nursing of children, and the pernicious custom of giving them spirits when very young, no doubt hastens their destruction.

A LITTLE below Mr. Fraser's house, towards the loch, is the old parish church, in ruins, and which must have been so for centuries, several ash trees * having twisted their roots and branches round many parts of the wall; the remainder is nearly covered with ivy.



* A sacrilegious carpenter being in want of some wood, a few years ago, cut down some of these ash trees, part of which he carried home; but being persuaded by his neighbours that nothing would ever prosper with him, he brought back the wood and laid it beside the wall, where it still remains untouched, notwithstanding the great scarcity of timber in the island.

THIS church is said to have been planted here by St. COLUMBA, during his residence at Icolmkill, and a curious tradition is told concerning it. When one of the incumbents died, two of the numerous priests of Icolmkill made application to Columba for the benefice at the same time. As he did not wish to offend either party, he told them that the first who obtained possession should have it. It was evening when they made the application, neither of them could, therefore, venture to begin his journey till the next morning: it may be supposed, however, that their eye-lids never closed. One of them set off very early for Torosay, but never arrived there; he was found by the other lying lifeless by the side of a well on a hill above the loch: the well is known to this day by a Gaelic name, which signifies "the well where the priest lay." It was supposed, that when heated with walking, he had drank too freely of the water of this well, and had fallen a victim to his imprudence. Some persons were, however, ill-natured enough to hint, that the other priest overtook him, and, being a stronger man, made sure of his benefice.

WITHIN the ruins of this church is the burial place of the parish of Torosay; they have not given up feasting at funerals, though dancing is not common. After the funeral they repair to the side of a hill, and under a rock near the church, banish sorrow with whiskey. A curious account of a banquet of this kind was given me by a person who was present at the scene.

It was a custom, very lately abolished, for the highland lairds to be attended by their pipers wherever they went. A laird in

Morven had taken his piper with him to the funeral of a deceased friend: when the corpse was committed to its native dust, a banquet was prepared in the church, and after the glass had circulated pretty freely, the laird ordered his piper to strike up, who, being as ready as his master, strutted up and down the church, making it resound with his melodious strains: at last he placed himself upon a tombstone, and played several airs: this so provoked a descendant of the person who was interred under the piper, who thought it an insult to the manes of his ancestor, that he went behind the musician, drew his dirk, thrust it into the wind-bag, and effectually stopped his pipe.

VARIOUS superstitions are still prevalent here; the belief in witchcraft is common, but persons who profess the gift of second sight are not much attended to. One of the superstitious notions here is, that if, in carrying a corpse to the grave, any one slips and falls down, he will be the next to be carried in this manner. A person, two or three years ago, being thus engaged, and going down a steep hill, to the ruinous burial place above described, fell down. Though slightly hurt, he immediately took to his bed, and the circumstance preyed so upon his spirits, that he was very near confirming his neighbours in their superstition: he, however, recovered, is still living, and has assisted in carrying several of his neighbours to their narrow cells.

THE island of Mull is about twenty-five miles long, and the same in breadth. The interior parts are very hilly, and covered with heath, but towards the coasts some tolerable slips of ground are to be seen, though these are trifling when compared with the whole island. On this account agriculture cannot be carried on to any considerable extent; but great numbers of black cattle are annually reared and exported, for which this country is very well adapted; and, indeed, it is chiefly from the sale of these that the peasantry make up their rents, which are now paid in specie. In general, however, the lands are let so high, that many of the small tenants cannot, with all their care, make up their rents by the sale of cattle: they are therefore obliged, after having tilled their little arable ground, to leave their families, and go to some of the southern districts, where they can be employed in making canals, or to some part where they can make kelp. In this way they contrive to save a little money, with which they return home before the time of their harvest.

THERE are scarcely any inclosures in this island, and as every family cultivates a little oats, barley, and flax, they are obliged to employ herds, to tend their cattle wherever they feed, to prevent their eating up the crops, as well as encroaching on the farms of their neighbours. This want of inclosures takes a number of hands from active employments, and at the same time gives to the herds habits of extreme indolence. The principal part of their occupation consists in sitting upon a bank, and

occasionally sending their dogs when the cattle are going astray: these docile and faithful animals save them all their labour. It is a pity that these herds are not taught some useful employment, which they might practise while they tended the cattle—they might knit stockings, or set the teeth of cards.

THE Mullish cattle are very much esteemed: they are easily fattened when removed to the low country, or to the rich pastures of England; their flesh is fine grained, juicy, and well tasted. The sheep of this island were, till very lately, of the small Highland breed, with very good wool, and sweet delicate flesh; but many of the hills are now stocked with low country sheep, particularly the Cheviot breed, which bring higher prices and are more prolific; these stand the winter here very well, as they come from parts where that season is vastly more severe than in the Hebrides: but their wool is not so fine, nor their flesh so well tasted. The tops of even the highest hills used formerly to be covered with black cattle, very few sheep being kept; but now the hills are stocked with sheep, and the low marshy grounds with black cattle. This is no doubt an improvement, for moss and marshy grounds are unfavourable to sheep, while the hills and mountains are much better suited to them than to black cattle.

ON account of the manner in which the farms are stocked, and grounds cultivated, each farmer is obliged to keep several servants. It is both best and cheapest to have young men in

their own houses; but the armies have lately so drained the country of these, that they are glad to get persons with families. These servants are allowed grass for two or three cows, and a few sheep; they are likewise permitted to sow a fourth part of the ploughed ground, and take every fourth sheaf when the corn is cut. The herd has a cabin, and grass for a cow and some sheep, with a little ground for a crop.

AMONG the great obstacles to the improvement and prosperity of both the highlands and islands, as Dr. Smith observes, is the unhappy frequency of our wars. It has been computed, that between soldiers and sailors, every war takes from the county of Argyle alone, between 3,000 and 4,000 of its most active and able hands, the support of thousands more,* few of whom live to return to their native country. In comparison of this, how trifling are all the other losses by emigration.

THE proprietors, either to become persons of consequence in the eyes of government, or to increase their incomes by procuring the command of the regiments they raise, and many of them no doubt with a laudable view of serving their country, are ambitious to raise regiments and companies, and call upon their tenants for their sons. They have undoubtedly no longer a legal power to compel the young men to quit their parents and join the army, as was the case formerly; but few of the peasants

* Smith's Agricultural Survey of Agyleshire, p. 299.

have any leases, and the fear of losing their farms is a sufficient motive to induce them to comply. The laird perhaps comes to an old tenant, and says, My friend, I am raising a regiment, and must have your two sons : here is a certain sum as a bounty. The old man, with tears in his eyes, tells him that they are the support of his years, and of their aged mother, neither of whom are able to work, and that he cannot spare them. The laird probably replies, that he may certainly please himself, but that such a person has offered for more his farm : this hint is sufficient for the poor old man, and with tears in his eyes, he consents. Should he be obstinate, what is his situation ? Whither can he go where he will not meet with similar conditions ? Besides, there is generally a tacit agreement among the proprietors in different parts of the Highlands, not to receive any one as a tenant from another estate, unless he brings a certificate from his quondam laird. I believe that there are not many instances where this power has been carried so far, as to deprive a man of his farm, but I have heard of some, and the tenants know the consequences too well, not to consent with a good grace, on the first application. Hence the reader will easily perceive, that though the feudal claims have been abolished, the Highland chieftain has nearly the same power as ever over his vassals ; and will have till long leases are granted, which will render the tenants a little more independent.

AGRICULTURE is here in a very low state, and though it is

capable of improvement, it cannot probably be carried to the extent of supplying the inhabitants with corn. The arable land, as was before observed, lies for the most part near the shore; the soil, even there, is in general but barren, being a light reddish earth, mixed with moss, of very little depth, and very much under water. The spots which deserve a more favourable description, are in proportion very few. The common crop is a very inferior kind of oats, which the inhabitants call small oats; they are sown about the end of March, and it is generally October, and sometimes November, before they are ripe. The common return is three seeds, and so light that two bolls of oats only make one of meal. Barley is sown about the end of April, and is ripe about the end of August; it generally returns from six to ten seeds; and when sown in old ground, manured with sea ware, it sometimes produces sixteen fold; this, however, is very rare. The greatest part of the barley is made into whiskey, which is much too commonly used in the Highlands. The late act obliging distillers to take out a licence, has undoubtedly diminished the number of stills in the Highlands, yet, in most of the sequestered glens, each distils his own spirits, without any fear of detection from the officers of the revenue. It is much to be wished that this pernicious poison could be banished from the country, and good malt liquor, which might be made with one-fourth the trouble, used in its stead. Surely no revenue arising from its consumption can be any compensation for its bad effects on the health and morals of society.

POTATOES grow here extremely well ; they are sown in lazy-beds by the spade, and are the chief subsistence of the poor people for three-quarters of the year. Before the introduction of this useful root, for which we are indebted to America, and which is more valuable than all the gold of Mexico, all the diamonds of Golconda, or all the tea of China, the distresses of the highlanders, and particularly the inhabitants of the western islands, were frequently very great. Depending on a little meal, which constituted the chief part of their food, their hopes were frequently blasted ; their corn rotted on the ground, and they were glad to drink the blood of their cattle, or bake it into cakes, to keep their families just alive. They had no money to purchase corn, even could it have been purchased. This failure of crops, through a long continuance of wet weather, happens on an average every third or fourth year ; but potatoes now prove a comfortable support through the winter, when grain and meal fail. Such distress is now seldom experienced, and were the fisheries properly encouraged, would be entirely unknown.

THE chief manure made use of in this island, is sea-ware, and in some parts shell-sand. The dung of horned cattle will go but little way, as the convenience for housing them is so small ; but cattle are generally folded in some part of the ground, during the night, in summer and harvest ; this is called teathing, and is one way in which the ground is manured. As there are few cart roads, the manure, whether sea-ware, shell-sand, or dung, is carried on the backs of horses, in baskets or creels,

which wastes a great deal of time. The plough commonly made use of in this island is very rude, and is probably the same that has been used for centuries back : it is drawn by four horses a-breast. They seem to use it, because they are not acquainted with a better. There are no plough-makers, so that each farmer is obliged to make his own, which he does in the manner of his forefathers. Should any of the proprietors encourage a proper maker to settle, or give ploughs to their tenants, the advantage would soon be apparent.

BUT the greatest bar to improvements in agriculture, as well as to every kind of rural economy, is the want of leases; few of the lairds in the highlands, for I do not speak of Mull in particular, will let the land otherwise than from year to year, and if the tenant choose to have a house, he must build one himself. The land is generally let to the highest bidder by private offer : how then can the tenant enter upon any improvements, when the next year he will probably lose his farm, unless he himself will pay for his own improvements by an advanced rent. In this dilemma, if he does not find a hut upon his farm, he builds himself a cabin, such as has been described, scarcely sufficient to shelter him from the inclemencies of the weather. He likewise takes every thing he can off the ground, which is a great detriment to the laird. Should the proprietors grant leases of considerable length, and either build houses for the tenants, or encourage them to do it, by paying them the extra expense when they leave the farm, their lands would be much benefited; and

their rent rolls in a few years considerably augmented, while the tenants would enjoy some of the comforts of life, to which, as fellow-men, they are entitled. As the prices of corn and cattle increase, there can be no doubt that the proprietor should be entitled to a higher rent, which should in some measure keep pace with the increased value of these articles. But a proper plan for leases, in which this mutual advantage need not be lost sight of, might easily be devised: and such a one, with some modifications, is in my opinion given by the late patriotic Lord Kames, in his Gentleman Farmer. In a lease of this kind, he observes, what chiefly ought to be had in view, is to restrain the tenant from impoverishing the land, and yet leave him at liberty to improve it; resembling a British monarch, who has unbounded power to do good, but none to do mischief. But in this climate, the tenant should not be tied down to invariable rules of cropping; an unusual season of hot, cold, dry, or wet weather, will oblige him, for a year at least, to abandon the best plan of cropping that can previously be contrived.

WITHOUT a long lease, it is in vain to look for an improving tenant. The most approved method, and the most likely to prevent waste, is to fix a time certain, suppose nineteen, or two nineteen years, and add the life of the tenant who is in possession at the expiration of the time. A man never loses the hope of living longer; and he will never run out ground that he hopes to be long in possession of. By this means the tenant will be deluded into a course of management, equally profitable to

himself and his landlord. But suppose, that after liming and other expensive manure, the tenant should happen to die without reaping any profit. With this view, Lord Kames proposes to insert a clause in the lease, for paying to his representatives what sum the tenant's profit has fallen short of the expense.

HE very properly excludes all assignees and sub-tenants; for where a tenant has it in his power to make his lease a subject of commerce, he will not be ready to lay out money in improvements. Among a number of excellent clauses in Lord Kames's proposed lease, is the following, on the supposition that the term is only nineteen years, which will excite the industry of the tenant to improve his farm, and at the same time secure to the landlord an increasing rent. At the expiration of the lease, the tenant shall be entitled to a second nineteen years, upon paying, suppose one-fifth more rent; unless the landlord choose to give him ten years purchase for that fifth part. The rent, for example, we will suppose to be 100*l.* The tenant offers for the next nineteen years 120*l.*: he is entitled to continue in his possession a second nineteen years, at the advanced rent, unless the landlord pay him 200*l.* If at the expiration of this term, he offer one-fifth more, the landlord cannot turn him out, unless he pay him ten years purchase for that offer. If, however, he chooses to leave his farm, without making the offer of the additional rent, the landlord is entitled to his improvements.

THE greatest evil, however, in the highlands, is the letting

large farms to tacksmen, or persons who take them for no other purpose than to sublet them. This practice is scarcely, if at all, known in England, but very common both in Scotland and Ireland, and is one principal source of the distressed state of the lower classes in both countries.*

ONE of these tacksmen takes a large farm of a proprietor, which he divides into a number of small ones, and lets at as high rent as he can, without any lease, his only object being to squeeze out as much money as he can from both the landlord and the poor tenants, who happen to come under his clutches, during the time he keeps possession. Dr. Smith, in his Agricultural Survey, compares those intermediate tenants to drones in a hive; they live upon the labours of others, and often beggar those beneath them, as well as intercept the advantages due to those above them. If the profits which these people enjoy for doing nothing, were divided as they ought between the

* In Ireland this system produces, if possible, still greater distress than in the highlands; the peasantry in that fertile country starve in the midst of plenty. They never eat butcher's meat from year to year, and yet immense quantities of beef and cattle are exported: they scarcely ever taste bread, yet great quantities of corn are annually sent out of the kingdom: they are almost naked, while their linen is sent in abundance to distant countries, and all this that the tacksmen, or middle men as they are there called, may live in indolence and luxury. Is it to be wondered then that they should be discontented? They are very ignorant, and imagine that whatever change should happen, their situations might be bettered. If the proprietors would let the lands themselves, by which means they would increase their own incomes, and allow their tenants to live comfortably, I apprehend, that the peasantry in that country would soon cease to be so turbulent. The experiment is certainly worth making.

labouring tenant, and the proprietor, the first would be at his case, and the last obtain considerable accession to his income.

THE natural disadvantages of the highlands and islands are such as one would think ought to induce the proprietors, by every means in their power, to soften the rigours of the lot of those who are born, and live upon these bleak and dreary hills. The only* parts capable of cultivation, are the valleys or glens around the bases of the mountains, which having the sun for a few hours only, vegetation is palsied, and advances slowly, the harvest being always very late. The climate is equally discouraging to the purposes of agriculture; the spring is bleak and piercing, if indeed there can be said to be any spring; but there are, properly speaking, only two seasons, winter and summer: the winter snows and frosts continue very late, and are seldom subdued, till the summer season brings forward at once the imperfect vegetation; and the crops before they are ripe, begin to be nipped by the keen blasts of the winter.* This latter

* It is generally asserted by old people, that the seasons in Britain have undergone a considerable change, even within the memory of the present generation. The winters seem to have lost their ancient horrors, and frequently assume the mildness of spring; while our summers are said to be less favourable than formerly, being much more cold and wet, less genial in promoting vegetation, and, in particular, much less efficacious in bringing to maturity the fruits of the earth. Some impute this to the querulous disposition of the farmer, the chill sensations of old age, or the predilection which every one feels for the cheerful days of childhood, when every thing pleases a mind that has not been soured by commerce with the world.

That this complaint, however, is not without foundation, there is good reason to believe. In many parts of the west highlands, where wood formerly existed in

season is long and tempestuous, and, during its continuance, the people are almost entirely cut off from all communication with

great quantities, a tree can now be scarcely made to grow. Morven is generally denominated by Ossian, "woody." It is now in a great measure destitute of wood, neither is it possible to rear trees of any size: those that are planted, if they do not soon die, have always a sickly appearance, and are stunted in their growth. Mr. Austin, one of the magistrates of Glasgow, an excellent botanist, and extensively engaged in the nursery line, is decidedly of opinion, that a considerable change for the worse has taken place: he informs me that several vegetables, and particularly the Lauristinus and *Laurus nobilis*, or sweet-bay, grew in health and vigour with his father; but that these plants have not been able to exist in similar soil and situation since 1775. In the Statistical Account of Kilwinning, in Ayrshire, are the following observations, in confirmation of this opinion: "It is in the recollection of many still living, that the summers, in this part of the country at least, are much more wet and cold than they were fifty years ago. By men of undoubted veracity it is asserted, as an absolutely certain fact, that, at that period, the farmers in ploughing for barley, about the middle of the month of May, were under the necessity of beginning to plough so very early as three o'clock in the morning, and to leave off at eight. The heat at that hour became so intense, that it was impossible for them to continue their work any longer; nor could they begin again, till between four and five o'clock in the afternoon. For a number of years past, quite the reverse has been the case. The month of May, in particular, has been very cold and wet, and unfavourable to vegetation: and in some years we have had very little of what may be reckoned *summer weather*. The harvest, of course, then was much earlier than it has been since. In several parts of the neighbourhood, it is said, that the harvest was finished about the latter end of August." That such an alteration has taken place likewise in the climate of Ireland, is, I think, clearly shown by the Rev. W. Hamilton, of Favet. This gentleman, in some papers read before the Royal Irish Academy, has shown that the climate of that country is considerably changed within the memory of man: that the winters are milder, and the summers less warm: that the winds have likewise, of late years, blown with uncommon violence from the westward. He has also pointed out some interesting facts respecting trees, which formerly flourished in Ireland, but cannot now withstand the rigour of the seasons. There is little doubt that Great Britain, at least the western coast of it, will experience the effects of all these circumstances, though perhaps in an inferior degree. Though this change may not appear from meteorological observations, yet we are not to infer that it has not taken place; for the thermometer may mark the general temperature, or mean heat of the climate as unchangeable, and

the low countries, by beds of snow, impassable torrents, and pathless mountains on the one side ; and by long and dangercous navigations on the other.

the rain-gauge may show that the usual quantity of rain falls ; yet a more clouded atmosphere, or tempestuous winds, will blast the progressive maturity of harvest, and shatter the languid frame of declining age. Meteorological observations have not, however, been continued long enough, nor with sufficient accuracy, even to ascertain whether the mean heat continues the same ; though it is probable it may, as the increased warmth of the winters will compensate for the coldness of the summers : besides, clouds, vapours, and the force of winds, are seldom registered with sufficient accuracy, though they must have been the principal causes that have contributed to this supposed alteration. It is well known, that the most prevalent winds blow from the westward ; these winds are commonly mild in their temperature, and moist in their nature, and consequently very friendly to animal and vegetable life ; but from whatever circumstances it has arisen, it would appear that they have of late years swept with uncommon violence over the surface of these isles ; frustrating the usual effects of their genial properties. That they have blown with increased violence, Mr. Hamilton endeavours to show from the appearance of the trees, the rapid accumulation of sands, and unusual high tides, indicating an increased agitation of the ocean. I have in my possession a meteorological journal, which was kept for more than forty years by Mr. Hutchinson of Liverpool, an abstract of which was published in the fourth volume of the Manchester Memoirs. It contains, besides the common account of the barometer, thermometer, rain, &c. observations on the velocity of the winds and the heights of the tides twice a day ; but I have not lately had sufficient time to make an abstract of this part : though it will be a laborious undertaking, I shall embrace the first opportunity of doing it, for it will determine with certainty, whether the velocity of the winds and height of the tides have increased since the commencement of the journal.

From the increased force of the winds, Mr. Hamilton explains the changes in the climate, which have been the complaint of the farmer, the gardener, and the aged. It is well known, that the surface of the ocean varies less from the mean annual temperature of its latitude, than land on the same parallel ; or, that the surface of the sea is colder in summer, and warmer in winter, than the surface of the ground in the same latitude ; this has been clearly shown by Kirwan. If then the prevalent winds of any country blow over an ocean situated in its parallel, that country will relatively be denominated temperate ; it will be free from all extremes ; the heats of

To these accumulated discouragements of nature, surely the proprietors ought to be humane and attentive. The rents ought

summer, and the colds of winter, will be checked by sea breezes of a contrary property; and the land, influenced by the neighbouring element, will more or less partake of the equability of temperature. Such is the case with all islands, and particularly with Great Britain and Ireland. The western winds visit us, modified by the temperature of the broad Atlantic Ocean, which they traverse in their career: they bring us the clouds teeming with moisture, collected in the course of three thousand miles along its surface. Hence the uniformity of temperature, and redundant humidity, which have always been marked as the distinguished characters of our climate, and which have been noticed by most writers ancient and modern. Tacitus, in his Life of Agricola, in speaking of the climate of this country, says *cælum crebris, imbribus ac nebulis fœdum*.

Since therefore the trees, sands, and tides seem to show that these winds have of late years blown with unusual violence; since they bear testimony that a large quantity of air thus directed, tempered, and surcharged, has passed over our lands; it plainly follows, that the climate must have felt the change; that it must have experienced colder summers and milder winters than formerly, approaching towards that equability of heat and redundance of moisture, which the farmer and gardener at present so heavily lament.

Why these westerly winds have ceased to bear the character of zephyrs, is not perhaps easy to say; we are not at present possessed of sufficient data whereon to found any well-grounded theory. The following ingenious queries are, however, modestly proposed by Mr. Hamilton.

1. Have not our winds become more violent, and the temperature of our seasons more equable, since our forests were cleared, and the country cultivated? And have not these winds, and that equability of temperature, been nearly proportioned to these circumstances?

2. Have not similar changes occurred under analogous circumstances in North America; even in Canada, that country of extremes in heat and cold; and did not the island of Bermudas, though situated so much to the southward of us, become barren of fruit in consequence of the destruction of its timber trees?

3. Has it not appeared from observations, on the ascent of balloons, and the motion of clouds, that the lower mass of air often pursues a different course from the upper stratum? May not then the limits of our stormy currents of air, be confined within a few hundred yards of the surface of the earth? And if so, is it

to be moderate; they will admit of a gradual augmentation, according to the increasing price of provisions; but if the rents have been tripled, while the prices of cattle had not been doubled, can it be expected that the tenant should enjoy any degree of comfort, or that it should diminish their regret at leaving their native hills, where their ancestors have long resided, and which they would never quit as long as they could acquire a comfortable provision for their families. Mr. Knox's description of the distresses of the highlands, has often affected me with horror, even when I hoped it was exaggerated: but my own observation, and information which I have obtained from intelligent and humane individuals, convince me that his picture is not too high coloured. Absolute starvation is not indeed so common, since the introduction of potatoes, but other circumstances remain very nearly the same.

not possible, and even probable, that the frequent interruption of forests, groves, and hedge-row trees, might have formerly very much retarded, and finally checked, the progress of a tempest?

4. Have not all the countries of Europe, Asia, and America, within the parallel of our island, been very much denuded of their forests within the present century? And has not the increased velocity of the westerly winds been proportioned to this destruction of the forests and trees?

5. Is it not probable, since the prevalent winds of our parallel have a westerly tendency, that circumstances which have removed impediments to their career round the entire globe, may have increased the velocity of their course?

Whether so diminutive an animal as man, so temporary in duration, so impotent in strength, acting through the lengthened period and persevering efforts of a large portion of his species, can reasonably be deemed equal to the involuntary production of such vast effects; to a change even of the elements and climates of the earth, may admit of doubt, opposition, and denial; for which reason he has simply proposed them as matters of inquiry.

WRETCHED SITUATION OF THE CATTLE. 179

IF, with great labour and fatigue, says this humane and patriotic man, the farmer raises a slender crop of oats and barley, the autumnal rains often baffle his utmost efforts, and frustrate all his expectations; and instead of being able to pay an exorbitant rent, he sees his family in danger of perishing during the winter, when he is precluded from any possibility of assistance elsewhere.

NOR are his cattle in a better situation: in summer they pick up a scanty support among the morasses, and heathy mountains; but in winter, when the grounds are covered with snow, and when the naked wilds afford them neither shelter nor subsistence, the few cows, small, lean, and ready to drop down through want of pasture, are brought into the hut where the family resides, and frequently share with them their little stock of meal, which had been purchased or raised for the family only; while the cattle thus sustained, are bled occasionally, to afford nourishment for the children after it has been boiled, or made into cakes.*

THE sheep being left upon the open heaths, seek to shelter themselves from the inclemencies of the weather, amongst the shallows upon the lee-side of the mountains; and here they are frequently buried under the snow for several weeks together. In

* This practice of bleeding cattle, though common when Mr. Knox wrote, is now little used since the introduction of potatoes: it is still, however, resorted to occasionally.

this situation, they eat their own and each others wool, and hold out wonderfully against cold and hunger; but even in moderate winters, a considerable number are found dead after the snow has disappeared, and in rigorous seasons few are left alive.

MEANWHILE the steward or factor, hard pressed by letters from the gaming-house, or Newmarket, demands the rent in a tone which makes no great allowance for unpropitious seasons, the death of cattle, and other accidental misfortunes; the laird's wants must be supplied.

SUCH is the state of farming, if it may be so called, throughout the interior parts of the highlands; but as that country has an extensive coast, and many islands, it may perhaps be supposed that the inhabitants of those shores are in a much better situation. This is, however, as yet, by no means the case; those gifts of nature, which in other commercial countries would have been subservient to the most valuable purposes, are here lost, or nearly so, to the natives, and to the public. The only difference, therefore, between the inhabitants of the interior parts, and those of the most distant coast or island, consists in this; that the latter, with the labours of the field, have to encounter alternately the dangers of the ocean, and all the fatigues of navigation.

To the distressing circumstances at home, which have been already described, new difficulties and toils await the devoted farmer when abroad. In hopes of gaining a little money to pay

his rent, or a little fish to support his family, he leaves his wife and infants at the commencement of the fishery in October, accompanied by his sons, brothers, and frequently an aged parent; and embarks in a small open boat, in quest of herrings, with no other provisions than oatmeal, potatoes, and fresh water; no other bedding than heath or brushwood; one end of the boat being covered with an old sail to defend them from the inclemencies of the seas and skies. Thus provided, he searches from bay to bay, through turbulent seas, frequently for several weeks together, before the shoals of herring are discovered. The glad tidings seem to vary, but not to diminish his fatigues. Unremitting nightly labour, pinching cold winds, heavy seas, uninhabited shores, covered with snow, or deluged with rains, contribute towards filling up the measure of his distresses: while to men of such exquisite feelings as the highlanders generally possess, the scene which awaits him at home, does it most effectually.

HAVING realized a little money among country purchasers, he returns with the remainder of his capture, through a long navigation, frequently amidst unceasing hurricanes, not to a comfortable home and cheerful family, which would make him forget his toils and smile at past dangers; but to a turf cabin, envircined with snow, and almost hid from the eye by its great depth. Upon entering his solitary mansion, he generally finds part of his family lying upon heath or straw, languishing through want or epidemical disease; while the few surviving cows, which possess the other end of the cottage, instead of

furnishing further supplies of milk and blood, demand his immediate attention to keep them in existence.

THE season now approaches, when he is again to delve and labour the ground, on the same slender prospect of a plentiful crop, or a dry harvest. The cattle which have survived the severity of the winter, are turned out to the mountains; and having put his domestic affairs into the best situation, which a train of accumulated misfortunes admit of, he resumes the oar in search of the white fishery. If successful in this, he sets out in his open boat upon a voyage of 200 miles, to vend his cargo of cod, ling, &c. at Greenock or Glasgow. The produce, which seldom exceeds in value twelve or fifteen pounds, is laid out, in conjunction with his companions, in meal and fishing tackle; and he returns through the same tedious navigation.*

THE autumn calls his attention again to the field; the usual round of disappointment, fatigue, and distress awaits him; thus he drags through a wretched existence, in the hopes of soon arriving at that country, where the weary shall be at rest.

IN the time of war, these poor wretches, while engaged in the fisheries to keep their drooping families in existence, are indiscriminately pressed, without regard to cases or circumstances, however distressing to the unhappy victims or their families.

* Should the Crinan canal be completed, and the dues sufficiently low, this tedious navigation will be avoided.

These virtuous, but friendless men, while endeavouring by every means in their power to pay their rents; to support their wives, their children and their aged parents: in short, while they are acting in every respect the part of honest, inoffensive subjects, are dragged away from their families and connections.

THE aged, the sick, and the helpless, look in vain for their return. They are heard of no more. Lamentations, cries, and despair, pervade the village or the district. Thus deprived of their main support, the rent unpaid, the cattle sold or seized, whole families are reduced to the extremity of want, and turned out amidst the inclemencies of the winter, to relate their piteous tale, and implore from the wretched but hospitable mountaineers, a little meal or a little milk, to preserve their infants from perishing in their arms.*

CAN we wonder, when we reflect upon all these unpleasant circumstances, that the resentment of human nature should sometimes break forth, and even overcome the fond attachment to the native soil, so natural to every one? Some, who had served in the American war, having settled in that country, were desirous that their friends should partake of their good fortune, instead of tilling a wretched soil, which, after all their labour, would not, at least, return above three-fold, they could, for less money than paid one year's rent for these grounds, pur-

* Knox's View of the British Empire, Vol. I. p. 126.

chase others of equal or greater extent, where the return would be twenty or thirty-fold, where the climate was genial, and where they could transmit their possessions and improvements to their children. Some transmitted these sentiments by letters; others returning to take leave of their native land, and the friends of their youth, delivered their opinions. They exhorted their countrymen to exchange their barren heaths for boundless plains of America; and set forth, often in too high colours, its numerous advantages. In consequence of these representations, great numbers were induced to accompany them; and between the years 1773 and 1775, above 30,000 persons from different parts of the highlands, crossed the Atlantic, and since that time numbers have followed.

I HAVE given this picture of distress nearly in Mr. Knox's own words; his zeal for the improvement of the highlands is well known, and his veracity will not be questioned. What has been mentioned, though introduced in this place, does not apply particularly to Mull, but is common to many of the Hebrides, and a great part of the highlands. Mr. Knox says, that in his journeys through the north of Scotland, he has frequently met families or bodies of people, travelling towards the ports. They generally edged off the road, and hurried along, as if shy of an interview; suspecting, perhaps, that they might meet with their landlords or tacksmen. This interview he was desirous to procure, and upon finding their flight interrupted, not by a hostile or dangerous force, but by a single individual upon a small horse,

in the midst of uninhabited wilds, he who could speak the best English, generally stepped forth, with a dejected countenance, while his companions, and especially the children, seemed to remain in eager suspense. The motive of these interviews, led to inquiries respecting the causes of their emigration, the state of their finances, and their notions of the country to which they were going. They represented their distresses with great feeling, most generally in tears; and with a strict regard to truth, as appeared from the uniformity of the accounts delivered by the different companies which he met, who were strangers to each other. "O, Sir," they would say, "we do not leave our country without good reason. Sometimes our crops yield little more than the seed; and sometimes they are destroyed by rains, or do not ripen; but some of our lairds make no allowance for these misfortunes: they seize our cattle and furniture, leaving us nothing but the skins, which would be of no use to them. O, Sir, can you tell us any thing about the country of America? They say poor folks may get a living in it, which is more than we can do here. We are driven with our poor children to a distant land. We are begging our way to Greenock, with all our clothes on our backs, as you see. God forgive our oppressors, who have brought us to this. We are quite strangers in the Lowlands; could you advise us, Sir, how to make a bargain with the captain of the ship? They say, that those who have no money to pay their passage, must sell themselves to the captain: this is our case. O, Sir, what have we done?—but it is the will of God, blessed be his holy name."

SUCH was the language of these people, who were going into voluntary slavery, at the distance of three thousand miles from their native place: for it was a custom a few years ago, and I believe exists still, that those who had not money to pay their passage, agreed with the captain to serve any proprietor he chose, for a certain number of years; the former actually selling the poor wretch, for that time, to the latter, as soon as he arrived in America.

BUT it is time to leave these digressions, into which I was drawn by the desire of exciting in proprietors a sense of their situation, and in the country at large, a sense of the danger arising from these sources of depopulation. Should the people, driven by despair, quit their native country for ever, of what avail will be the barren hills to the proprietors? The loss to the country cannot be better described, than in the words of Goldsmith:

“ Ill fares the land, to hast’ning ills a prey,
 While wealth accumulates, and men decay;
 Princes and lords may flourish, or may fade,
 A breath can make them, as a breath has made:
 But a bold peasantry, their country’s pride,
 When once destroy’d can never be supplied.”

I MUST not forget to mention the manufacture of Kelp, or Soda, from sea-ware, which is carried on in the island of Mull, and indeed most of the other islands, and which has added very much to the incomes of the proprietors. Upon every part of the

coast there are various kinds of sea-weeds, or wrack, as it is called, which were, till lately, used indiscriminately as manures. This useful material, which has contributed so much to enrich the proprietors, and afford employment to many hands, during the season, does not appear to have been known as a manufacture in Britain, until the beginning of the present century: this was owing to the backward state of the soap and glass manufactories in this country, in both of which great quantities of alkali are used, and which have not been carried on with spirit in Scotland more than thirty years.

THE first introduction of the kelp manufacture, was into the island of Uist, about the year 1730, by a Mr. M'LEOD, who brought it from Ireland, where it had been carried on for several years. His method was, however, a bad one, for he contented himself with merely reducing the sea-ware to ashes; but this was soon given up, and the plan of fusion, which is now followed, adopted. This manufacture soon found its way into the other islands, and began to form an article of trade, even in Shetland, very soon after its introduction into the Hebrides. The quantity of kelp at first made was very small; but the great increase and rapid progress of the manufactures depending upon it, soon raised the price, and increased the quantity. At first, the price was so small, that it would do little more than pay for manufacturing, but it augmented very rapidly. The following account, given by Mr. Jameson, in his ingenious "Outlines of the Mineralogy of the Shetland Islands, &c." contains pretty

188 METHOD OF MANUFACTURING KELP.

nearly the price of kelp, from the year 1740, to the present time :

			<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	
From 1740 to 1760	average price about		2	5	0	a ton.
1760 to 1770	— — —		4	4	0	
1770 to 1780	— — —		5	0	0	
1780 to 1790	— — —		6	0	0	

Since the year 1791, its value has increased still more rapidly, partly owing to the extension of the manufactures before-mentioned, but chiefly to the war, which has prevented the importation of the usual quantity of barilla, and has raised kelp to the enormous price of 11*l.* a ton. The benefit of this manufacture to the proprietors will be evident, when it is known, that small farms on the coasts, which within these seven years, only paid 40*l.* rent, haven risen to 300*l.* a year.

THE cost of manufacturing kelp in the Hebrides is about thirty shillings a ton, which allows an immense profit. I believe that not less than 500 tons are annually made in Mull, at least since the price has been so high; for the quantity made, varies according to the price it draws.

THE method of manufacturing this article is very simple. The different species of *fuci*, particularly the *fucus vesiculosus*, or button wrack, and *fucus serratus*, or lady wrack, when fully grown in the sea, are forced continually, by the flux of the tides, against rocks, to which they adhere, and on which they grow, covering them not unfrequently to a considerable depth. These

marine plants, in the months of May, June, and July, are cut from the rocks, spread out, and dried, so as to enable them to burn more easily. When the ware is sufficiently dried, a pit is dug upon the shore, generally in the sand, about seven feet wide, and three or four feet deep, and lined with small stones. A fire is next kindled at the bottom, and the dried fucus laid upon it by degrees; fresh quantities are added, until the pit is nearly filled, and the whole is then frequently stirred; towards the evening it gets into a semi-fluid state; it is then allowed to cool; the pit is covered with stones and turf, in such a manner as to keep out the wet, and the kelp is ready for the market.*

THE growing of fuci upon shores, is now become an object of considerable consequence, not only from their value, as affording kelp, but also on account of their great use as manures. It has therefore been recommended to roll stones upon the shores, which in many places can be done at a small expense, and these, in two years, will be covered with such quantities of fuci, as to be worth cutting. Calcareous stones are found to be the best for this purpose.

THE climate of Mull is very moist, the rains being frequent and heavy. Severe gales of wind from the west are likewise common. But the winters, not only here, but in the whole of the western islands, are much more temperate than in the inland.

* Jameson's Outlines of the Mineralogy of the Shetland Islands.

parts of Scotland. This is owing to the intense cold being moderated by the surrounding ocean, the temperature of which keeps pretty nearly the same, during the whole year. The ground is seldom wholly covered with snow, which, excepting on the hills, soon melts; nor are the frosts usually of long continuance; but the summers are generally wet, cold, and short.

THE following particulars are taken from Smith's Agricultural Survey :

Real rent of Mull	-	-	£.7,711	0	0
Valued do.	-	-	744	11	0
Population in 1775	-	-	5287		
Do. in 1795	-	-	8016		
Increase in 40 years	-	-	2729		
Supposed extent in square miles			425		

FROM this may be deduced, that the population is between 18 and 19 to the square mile.

I SUPPOSE that the population in the county of Argyle, may be taken as the average population of the highlands in general, or perhaps somewhat more, as there are two considerable towns in it, namely, Inverary and Campbeltown, as well as the village of Oban. Now, from Dr. Smith's table, it may be calculated, that the population of this county is between 17 and 18 for the square mile, so that the island of Mull has its share of population. The island of Great Britain, upon an average, contains

109 inhabitants in the square mile,* so that the population of the highlands is only about one-sixth of the average population of Britain, or one-ninth of the population of England.

THE common language of Mull is the Gaelic, though several can speak English: and were the schools properly encouraged, this language would gain ground fast, but they are for the most part ill managed and ill attended; indeed, the encouragement given to school-masters, not only here, but in the greater part of the highlands, is insufficient to induce persons properly qualified to undertake this useful office. In general, the common labourers are better paid, and better able to support a family, than the school-masters.

THERE are two stated ferries in the island, one to Morven, and the other from Achnacraig to Kerrera, and thence to the main land near Oban. By this last, near 2000 black cattle are annually waded over, for the several markets to which they are driven, besides a considerable number of horses; but in this number are included the black cattle from the isles of Col and Tiree, which are driven through Mull in their way to the low country.

JULY 17. We left our inn at Achnacraig, early in the morning, and proceeded up the north-east coast of Mull to Aros, eighteen miles distant. The road, which was chiefly made by

* Guthrie.

government, is very good ; indeed it is almost the only passable road in the island. The country likewise put on a better appearance than we had yet observed ; for some spots near the sea might be called fertile, and about a mile from the inn is a small plain finely wooded. To the right, we saw an old castle on a bold headland projecting into the sea, as most of the old highland castles do. This was Castle Duart, or Dowart, and was formerly the seat of the Macleans, the proprietors of the whole island. It is now in ruins, though some parts of it are so far inhabitable, as to afford accommodations to a small party of soldiers, sent hither from Fort William to prevent smuggling.

FROM this place, we had a fine view of Cruachan, on the main land, hiding his pointed top in the clouds ; and immediately before us, across the sound of Mull, lay the ragged hills of Morven, a large peninsula, famous for being the residence of Fingal. The soil seems to have been in a great measure washed off, and the rocks left bare ; there are none of the woods remaining, which are so often mentioned by Ossian. About five miles from Achnacraig, we passed on our left a neat house, the residence of Mr. ALLAN MACLEAN ; and on the other side of the sound in Morven, we saw an old castle, the name of which we did not learn. About thirteen miles from the inn, we passed the ruins of an old church, near which were several tomb-stones, some of them very ancient, but several modern. We passed likewise several villages, or irregular collection of huts, many of which had a very wretched appearance, being built of earth,

with wicker doors. They were by much the worst that we had seen.

AT AROS,* are the ruins of an old castle, built upon a steep rock towards the sea, and which appears to have been secured on the land side by a moat and a draw-bridge. It has evidently been intended as a place of strength, and is said to have been built by MACDONALD, Lord of the Isles, who resided there some time; but at what period, or how long, we could not ascertain.

NEAR the castle is a neat modern house, the residence of Mr. MAXWELL, factor to the Duke of Argyle, by whom we were hospitably entertained, and who sent a guide with us to Torloisk; for we here left the good road, which is continued from Aros to Tobermory,† a village lately built by the British society for encouraging fisheries, who have a property of about 4,000 acres, the greatest part of which, however, is hill or moss; the ground for tillage lying in detached spots near the harbour, is not considerable either for extent or quality.

THE situation of Tobermory is an excellent one for the purpose of a village and sea-port; it possesses a fine bay, which is sheltered by the small island Calve lying before it, and is situated

* *Aros*, in Gaelic, signifies the mansion or habitation, and is a name applicable to the residence of any family of distinction.

† *Tobermory* signifies the well of the Virgin Mary.—*Calve*, the small island without the bay, which covers one side of it, signifies in Gaelic, *harbour-side*.

in the track of the shipping, which pass from the western parts of Britain to the northern countries of Europe, and has an easy communication by water with the fishing-lochs in one direction, and with the Firth of Clyde, Liverpool, and other considerable towns in the other.

THE society began to form this village in the year 1788; and a custom-house and post-office were established here in the year 1791. The village consists of about twenty houses, built with stone and lime, and covered with slate; besides these, there are about thirty huts or thatched houses. The population is about 300. A few persons follow the mercantile line, and serve the settlers and neighbouring districts with goods imported from the low country. A house has been lately built here by the Stevensons of Oban, who carry on some trade. A boat-builder and cooper have settled here, and find pretty constant employment in the building of boats, and making of barrels for the herring fishery. There is likewise a considerable salt store kept here, for supplying the busses and boats in the fishing season.

As we had not an opportunity of visiting this new settlement, the preceding description is taken partly from what was related to us, but chiefly from Mr. MAC ARTHUR'S Statistical Account.

THE distance from Aros to Torloisk is about fifteen miles, and the road, if the indistinct path over which we travelled deserves the name, is the most rugged, stony, and mountainous I ever

saw. We were, however, amply recompensed for our labour, by the very hospitable reception we met with from Mr. Maclean of Torloisk,* and his good lady.

MR. MACLEAN'S house is large and elegant, and unquestionably the best in the island. It is situated on a rising ground above the sea, having in front the islands of Gometra and Ulva, with a view of Icolmkill, Staffa, Dutchman's Cap, and several other islands rising up like black spots out of the ocean. The situation is delightful in summer, but must be very bleak in winter, as it has nothing to shelter it from the storms of the west, which are by much the most frequent.

As we wished to visit Staffa the next morning, our worthy host Torloisk † procured us a boat belonging to some of his tenants in the island of Gometra, which was engaged to come over for us at an early hour.

JULY 18. The boat came at the time appointed; but the morning being very stormy, we could not venture to visit Staffa.

* *Torloisk*, in Gaëlic, signifies "the burnt hill."

† It is scarcely necessary to mention, that the highland lairds, instead of being called by their proper names, are distinguished by the name of their property; this undoubtedly originated from the difficulty of distinguishing the different families of the same name and clan. All the proprietors of Mull were formerly Macleans! at present there are several of that name, but the principal are Maclean of Lochbuie, and our host, both of whom are distinguished by the name of their residence; so that this distinction, which originated in the necessity, is continued as a title.

We did not, however, find our time hang heavy on our hands, for we were entertained with the most friendly hospitality: this delay likewise gave me an opportunity of extending my notes, and making observations on this side of the island.

THE mineralogical appearance of this island is very different from what we had hitherto seen: instead of granite, porphyry, or micaceous schistus, which we had almost constantly met with, a considerable part of the parish of Torosay, and I suspect a great part of the island, at a considerable depth, consists of whinstone, which does not differ from basalt in its chemical properties, nor indeed in any other respect than the coarseness of its grain. As we approached Aros and Torloisk, most of the rocks were of the basaltic kind, and often assumed a regular form. Not far from Aros I saw some white lava, similar to that described by Dolomieu, in his "Memoires sur l'Isle de Ponces." There is some limestone in the island, but difficult of access. Some seams of coal have likewise been found in different parts: there is one about three feet thick, in a hill called Beinanini; this has not however been worked with advantage, though it most probably might. The quality of the coal seems very good. This seam is the property of Sir JAMES RIDDEL, of Ardnamurchan. A seam about eighteen inches thick, appears upon the sea-coast of Rass, the property of the Duke of Argyle. Coal has likewise been discovered in Brolass and Gribun, the property of Captain MACLEAN of Kinlochlavin.

To the botanist this island is by no means interesting. On several of the hills I found the *Gentiana Amarella*, and in the neighbourhood of Torloisk, the *Arbutus. uva-ursi* grows in considerable quantity.

Among the proverbs which are common in this and some of the islands, is the following one: when you meet with ingratitude from a person who has been benefited by your means, where you had reason to expect a very different conduct, it is common to say, "what a fool was I to burn my harp for him or her."* This proverb is very common in Mull, and the following circumstance is said to have given rise to it.

In former times, there lived in this island a celebrated harper, married to a young woman of exquisite beauty, whom he tenderly loved. The musician excelled all his cotemporaries in taste and execution; but it was said that he owed part of his fame to an instrument so admirably constructed, that no artist could hope to equal, much less surpass it. Next to his wife, it was the pride and joy of his heart, and his companion wherever he went.

This pair went to visit a relation, who was sick, on the opposite coast. It was winter, and those who are acquainted with this rugged island, will not wonder that a woman should sink under the cold and fatigue of the journey. The wind blew keen

* The Gaëlic proverb is, "Smeirg a loisgeadh a thiompan ría."

and cold; they struggled against the blast, and at last reached the top of a high hill, which they could not avoid passing. Here, being quite exhausted, she fainted away. The husband, with the utmost tenderness, exerted himself for the preservation of a life so dear to him; and perceiving some symptoms of recovery, he hastened to kindle a fire to warm her. He struck a flint, and received the sparks among a little dry heather, which he had collected with difficulty; for the place was too high and exposed to produce even this plant in abundance, though a native of barren soils. In this penury of fuel, the good man scrupled not to sacrifice his beloved harp, breaking it in pieces, and feeding the flames with its fragments.

WHILE he was thus occupied; a young gentleman happened to be hunting at no great distance; and seeing the smoke, made towards it. He appeared to be greatly struck at seeing, in that situation, a beautiful woman in distress, whilst she was so much disordered at the sight of the stranger, that the husband dreaded another fit. The youth made many professions of sympathy and concern; and offered them some spirits and provisions, which he had with him. This was accepted with gratitude, for they had set out in a hurry, and were ill provided for the accident; and without the aid of some cordial, it was scarcely possible for the wife to hold out, till they had reached some habitation.

HER agitation, however, subsided by degrees, and she was prevailed on, with some entreaty, to partake of the repast. In a

little time her spirits revived, and she seemed to make light of her disaster. The joy of the husband was excessive, nor did he once regret the loss of his favourite harp. He was pleased to see his wife exert herself with so much alacrity to entertain the youth to whom they were so highly indebted. The conversation became soon so animated and particular, that a less happy husband, with the slightest tincture of jealousy in his temper, would have suspected that this was not their first meeting. The fact was, they were old acquaintances, though, as the young man saw her not disposed to recognize him, he chose to behave as a stranger.

THE woman had been brought up by a grandmother, whose name she bore, and from whom her family had expectations. Her grandmother's house was in another island, and very near that of the youth's father. They had been companions from early infancy, and in all the little pursuits of childhood, had ever chosen each other as associates. As they advanced in years, this fondness

Grew with their growth, and strengthen'd with their strength.

THIS affection was not a little increased by the pastoral life then led by both sexes of young highlanders; for at that time, when, in other countries, boys of his age would have been at school, his chief employment was hunting, fishing, or listening to the Celtic songs and tales, which were the delight of all ranks of people, this way of life gave him frequent opportunities

of seeing his fair one, whose beauty daily increased. Their friendship was fast ripening into love, when her grandmother died, and she returned to her native island, and to her father's house. From that time till the present, they had never met, or heard of each other, for the art of writing was not known there, and there was but little intercourse between the different islands.

THEY were both much afflicted at the separation; not that they thought of marriage; for, besides that he was too young, there was an insurmountable bar to their union. He was born a *Duin-wassal*, or gentleman; she a vassal, or commoner of an inferior tribe; and whilst ancient manners and customs were religiously adhered to, by a primitive people, the two classes kept perfectly unmixed in their alliances. In those times, a gentleman of no fortune, or, as Dr. Johnson would have said, a beggar of high birth, was respected by his countrymen, and addressed in the plural number; whereas a commoner, though possessed of considerable property, was saluted with *thou* or *thee*, and, however rich, could not pretend to ask the hand of the poorest gentlewoman.

THIS, however, had been no bar to their friendship; for, in every age and country, boys and girls, when left to themselves, pay little regard to these accidental circumstances in the choice of their companions; spirit, generosity, and pleasing manners, being the qualities that bind young hearts together.

HER marriage did not take place till two years after their separation, and was what might be called, on her side, a prudential one. She had no objection to the musician, who was a man of property, and respected; she gave him her hand, when he had no interest in her heart. Her first love still lurked there, though reason and virtue exerted themselves to expel him. In the course of a few months, the worth and tenderness of her husband, and a laudable desire of standing well in the opinion of the world, had greatly weakened these impressions; so that hitherto she had acted her part in the marriage state, with propriety and applause. A meeting, however, so romantic and unexpected as the present was too strong a temptation. A thousand tender incidents of childhood and youth crowded into her recollection, and too successfully suggested, that the companion of her happiest years, was alone worthy of her love.

THE young man, on his part, was equally captivated; and, indeed, the charms which had so touched his heart in early youth, were now in full bloom, and, in his opinion, much improved; and guessing by her demeanour, and the language of her eyes, that he still maintained a place in her affections, he listened enamoured to her conversation, which, being in the presence of her husband, was lively and innocent: while, hurried away by the impulse of passion, his purpose was to carry her off to a distant island, where they were both unknown.

THE husband at length proposed to his wife to proceed on their journey, when the stranger politely offered to accompany them a few miles. By the way he found means to whisper his scheme, and was glad to find his old mistress as impatient as he could wish, to abandon, for his sake, all that a virtuous woman holds dear. Such was the return she made to her husband, for all his tenderness and love ! and so blind was she to that misery and shame which were soon to overtake her ! They at length came to the foot of a mountain, where was a deep woody glen ; here the artful woman complaining of thirst, the fond and unsuspecting husband ran to a stream, which he saw at a distance, while the guilty pair made their elopement, and were out of sight in an instant. But who can paint the situation of the husband at his return ? Bereaved thus both of his wife and his harp, he exclaimed, in an agony of grief, " Fool that I was, to burn my harp for thee ! " *

JULY 19th. The weather still continuing stormy, there was no possibility of visiting Staffa ; but in the society of Torloisk and the ladies, we were not disposed to complain. It was not without surprize, I must confess, that in an island of the Hebrides, far from the gay and busy world, we met with elegant society, and every comfort and convenience that could have been pro-

* The substance of this tale was told me by a native of Mull. I afterwards found it related in "The Bee, from which I have taken it, with some few alterations. Mr. M'Niel has made it the subject of a beautiful poem, entitled The Harp.

cured in the capital, with far more sincerity and hospitality. Mr. Maclean's family consisted, besides himself and his lady, of Mrs. Maclean's sister, and a female friend of theirs, both highly accomplished and agreeable.

BEFORE dinner, I took a walk with Mr. Watts, accompanied by our host, and two gentlemen from the island of Orancy, who came to Torloisk the preceding day. Almost all the rocks in the neighbourhood are basaltic; and a kind of honeycomb lava is very common, the cells of which are filled with bubbles of zeolite. During the last two days, I was consulted by several sick persons in the neighbourhood, to whom the worthy Mrs. Maclean administered medicines.

THOUGH it is much to be wished that the distresses of these poor islanders could be effectually alleviated, and their industry properly directed, yet it must be confessed, that if we compare their situation with the savage and fierce manners of former times, the present age will not lose by the comparison.

THE island of Mull, as well as several of the neighbouring isles, have often been the seats of the ravages of factious and perfidious chieftains, whose savage wars were continually raging. The heroes of Ossian were monsters delighting in gore, and boasting of their victims laid low.

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THERE was some time ago published at Glasgow, a small book entitled, "The History of the Feuds and Conflicts among the Clans in the Northern Parts of Scotland, and in the Western Isles, from the Year 1031 unto 1619," from a manuscript written in the reign of James VI. which places in a strong light the character of those barbarous times. From these materials I shall endeavour to select the particulars of a quarrel between the Macdonalds of Cantyre, and the Macleans of Mull, which will not only give a good idea of the troubles of those days, but likewise show the manner in which a great part of this, and some other islands, became the property of the powerful family of Argyle.

DONALD GORME MACDONALD of Sleat, in the isle of Skye, being on a visit to his cousin ANGUS MACDONALD of Cantyre, landed with his suite, in the isle of Jura, part of which was the property of Maclean of Mull, the remainder belonging to his kinsman Macdonald. Being driven by contrary winds, he was under the necessity of landing on that part of the island belonging to Maclean. They were no sooner on shore than Macconnel Tearreagh, and Hutcheon Macgillespick, whom Donald Gorme, for certain offences, had driven out of Skye, and who had taken shelter in Jura, having learned to whom the vessel belonged, they contrived a very malicious scheme to draw upon him the resentment of Maclean. In the dead of night they drove away part of Macleans cattle, taking them on board their vessels, not doubting that suspicion, the evidence of barbarians, would fall

on Donald Gorme's party. In this conjecture they were not deceived; for Sir Lauchan Maclean, a young fiery chief, assembled his clan, and next night fell upon Gorme's party, and killed above sixty on the spot; Donald himself escaping with great difficulty, with the remainder, on board a ship that lay in the harbour.

WHEN the news of this lamentable affair reached Angus Macdonald of Cantyre, it filled him with grief, as he was nearly related to both parties. Donald Gorme, being, as was before observed, his cousin, and he had married Maclean's sister. Dreading, therefore, the consequences of this quarrel, he was determined to employ his good offices in bringing about a reconciliation. With this view, he went to the isle of Skye, and had the satisfaction to find Donald Gorme by no means untractable. After remaining some time in this island with his kinsman, he, on his return to Cantyre, landed in Mull, and went to Castle Duart, the principal residence of Maclean, contrary to the advice of his brothers, Coll and Renald, and of his cousin Renald Maccoll, who wished him rather to send for Maclean, and inform him how he had succeeded with Donald Gorme, and then sound how far he might be inclined to a mutual reconciliation: but Angus Macdonald had so much confidence in his brother-in-law, Sir Lauchlan Maclean, that he paid no regard to their urgent intreaties; his brothers, dreading the consequence, left him, but his cousin Renald Macdonald, accompanied him to Castle Duart, where Maclean received him with great appearance of

kindness, and ave him hopes that his good offices might not be in vain; but after his unsuspecting guest had retired to rest, far other thoughts possessed the mind of this barbarous chief. Isla belonged to the clan Donald, and had been given to them for their personal services: but it seems that a claim had formerly been granted by the crown, whose policy was to sow discord among the chieftains, to Maclean, of some lands in that island called the Kinnes of Isla: this claim had long lain dormant, but the present was too good an opportunity to be neglected by the ambitious laird of Mull, who, throwing aside all scruples of integrity and honour, was determined to assert his claim. In the morning, with a confident air, he informed his astonished guest, that unless he would give up all title to the disputed lands in Isla, he must prepare to spend the rest of his life in captivity. The unfortunate Macdonald had no choice; he was therefore obliged to yield, and leave his eldest son James, and his cousin Renald, as hostages, until Maclean had taken possession of the lands in question.

THIS act of perfidy, as well as the injury received by Donald Gorme, roused the spirit of Angus Macdonald; who now considered himself as the party most injured, and meditated revenge; but being as cool as he was determined, he stifled all appearance of resentment till he could show it with effect. It was not long before an opportunity of retaliation presented itself. Maclean, wishing to take possession of his newly ceded territories, sailed for Isla, leaving one of his pledges, Renald, in fetters in the

dungeon of Castle Duart, and taking his nephew James along with him for his better security. On landing in Isla, he encamped at *Ellan-loch-gorme*, a ruinous fort, situated upon the Kinnes; but his situation being inconvenient, Angus Macdonald invited him to Mullintrea, a seat of his in the island, where he would be much better accommodated; he requested him to continue with him as long as his provisions should last, and that then he would accompany him to the house of some other laird; for it was a custom among the highland chiefs, to invite all strangers to their houses, whom, and their retinue, they treated with the greatest hospitality, as long as their provisions held out; when these were consumed, the laird accompanied his guest to the residence of a neighbouring chief, where the visit was limited by the same necessity.

In answer to this invitation, Maclean pleaded his distrust of Macdonald's sincerity, being conscious of having offended him. Macdonald asserted, that he had no reason to be suspicious of harm, as he was possessed of pledges which his friends might keep in custody till his return. Maclean, after some hesitation, complied; and went to Mullintrea, attended by eighty-six of his kinsmen and dependants, and accompanied by his nephew, the son of Macdonald, whom he always kept in his sight as a security from danger, no longer scrupling to accept an invitation from one, with whom he had just broken every right of hospitality and honour.

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ON their arrival, they were received with every appearance of welcome, and sumptuously banqueted during the day; but though Macdonald affected to participate in their mirth, his thoughts were otherwise employed. He had privately sent orders to his friends and followers to rendezvous in arms at his house, at a certain hour in the evening; these came punctually to the number of three or four hundred; and about midnight surrounded the house that had been appropriated for the reception of Maclean, which was a long building somewhat distant from the other houses, the habitation of a highland chief, consisting of several low buildings surrounding the castle, or place of security.

THE house being surrounded by Macdonald's attendants, Angus himself knocked at the door, and called to Maclean, telling him, that he had brought him his reposing draught, which was forgotten to be given him before he went to bed. Maclean replied, that as the hour was so late, and he himself in bed, he did not intend to take it that night; upon which Macdonald told him, that whatever might be his intentions, he insisted on his instantly rising and receiving it. Maclean then began to suspect, and rising, opened the door, holding his young hostage before his breast to prevent any sudden attack. The boy perceiving his father with a drawn sword, and attended by a number of armed men, cried aloud for mercy for his uncle, which was granted, and Maclean was removed to the keep or prison of the castle till the next morning. Macdonald then proclaimed

liberty to the followers of Maclean, excepting Macdonald Tear-
reah, and another whom he named, who were suspected to have
been their chief's principal advisers in his treacherous act at
Castle Duart; these he commanded to come forth and deliver
themselves, which they refused to do, dreading the consequences.
He therefore ordered the house to be set on fire, and left them
to perish in the flames.

Soon after the report of Maclean's captivity had reached
Mull, Allan Maclean, one of his relations, thinking this a fa-
vourable opportunity to gratify his own ambition, caused a re-
port to be spread in Isla, that Renald, Macdonald's brother,
who had been left as a hostage in Mull, had been slain by order
of Maclean; which false report he hoped would provoke Mac-
donald to kill his prisoner, and that then he, Allan Maclean,
would seize on his estates. Nor was he quite mistaken, for
Macdonald no sooner heard of the death of his brother, than he
caused all the followers of Maclean, none of whom had yet left
Isla, to be beheaded. Maclean, however, was spared, probably
for a more exemplary punishment:

THE superiority of Macdonald in this contest, now began to
raise the jealousy of the Earl of Argyle, who had long envied the
power of his neighbour. The territory of Cantyre lying on the
shores of Loch Fyne, was contiguous to that of Argyle; and the
island of Isla, belonging to Macdonald, was directly upon the
coast. This insular situation gave him great power to injure his

neighbour: he had a navy in his ports, and could have sailed up Loch-Fyne to the very walls of Inverary. So powerful a neighbour had long created alarm, and an occasion of humbling him had been ardently wished for; a body of forces was therefore instantly raised, the ostensible motive of which was to adjust the quarrel between Maclean and Macdonald, but the real one, to check the power of the latter.

ARGYLE had, however, embarked in a matter vastly beyond his power; the address and abilities of Macdonald made him glad to draw back his forces. He therefore complained to the king, who sent a herald to order Macdonald to restore Maclean to liberty; but a highland chief did not easily at that time submit to a royal mandate: the messenger was interrupted, and finding the port shut, from whence he should have taken shipping to Isla, he returned home. At last, however, through the indefatigable perseverance of James Stewart, chancellor of Scotland, Maclean was, on some rigid conditions, exchanged for Renald. For the performance of these conditions, he gave his own son, and the son of Macleod of Harris, with several other hostages, to Macdonald, who immediately set sail for Ireland, to assist in the quarrel of a neighbouring chief upon the coast of that island.

MACLEAN no sooner heard of the departure of his enemy, than without either regarding the safety of his pledges, or his own faith, he invaded Isla, and carried fire and sword through that unfortunate island. Macdonald, however, though on his

return from Ireland he had been informed of this new act of perfidy, scorned to revenge himself on the innocent individuals in his power. The blood which he had shed at Mullintrea, had probably taught him this lesson of humanity. He, however, transported his troops to the island of Tiree, belonging to Maclean, and destroyed all the inhabitants and cattle; not content with this act of vengeance, he landed in Mull, and ravaged the whole island. The inhabitants could make no resistance, but flying before him like sheep, were slaughtered in almost every corner by the enraged chief.

WHILST Macdonald committed these outrages in Mull, Maclean was by no means backward in retaliating, but finding himself unable to cope with Macdonald in person, he went into Cantyre, and burnt and laid waste a great part of the country; they thus continued to vex each other with fresh slaughters and outrages, till they had very nearly depopulated both countries.

Soon after this, Maclean was guilty of another act of perfidy. John Maclean of Ardenmurchie, one of the clan Donald, had been a suitor of Maclean's mother, but his addresses, though favourably received by her, were forbidden by Maclean, the disposal of a mother in marriage being one of the privileges of a highland chief. Now, however, he was eager to bring about this match, hoping that he might induce his new father-in-law to join in a conspiracy against Macdonald: for this

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purpose he invited Maclean to Mull, and the marriage was shortly after celebrated at Torloisk. After the nuptials, he sounded his father in law concerning the conspiracy, who received the proposal with disdain, refusing to act so perfidious a part against his friend and relation. This so enraged the chief, that in the middle of the night he broke into his chamber, tore him from his bride, threw him into prison, and slew eighteen of his attendants who had come to his assistance. This barbarous act, even in a barbarous country, was received with horror, and for a long time after, *Maclean's nuptials* became a proverb to express any thing infamous or horrible. Maclean detained his prisoner a whole year in captivity, but at last exchanged him for his own son, and the rest of the pledges in the hands of Angus Macdonald.

THESE two chiefs, Maclean and Macdonald, who had thus disturbed the tranquillity of the country for several years, were summoned to appear before the king at Edinburgh, in the year 1591, with the promise of a safe conduct to and from that city, and an assurance that no harm was intended, it being only the wish of his majesty to make up the quarrel between them. They no sooner arrived at Edinburgh, than they were arrested, shut up in the castle, and left to manage the dispute by themselves. The two chiefs soon became tired of confinement, and making the king a solemn promise not to disturb each other in future, they were liberated, on leaving their eldest sons as hostages for their obedience.

FOR several years did these two chiefs obey the king's injunction, neither party disturbing the other; but the restless and turbulent spirit of Sir Lauchlan Maclean was ill suited to tranquillity, and a highland quarrel in those days was seldom forgotten. Angus Macdonald being grown old, had committed the management of his affairs to his son James Macdonald, who was a very young man; this circumstance inspired the ambitious Maclean to assert his claim to the whole island of Isla; for which purpose he got his old grant renewed and enlarged, and assembling his whole force, sailed for the island with an intention of seizing possession. When James Macdonald heard this, he hastily raised his forces, and appeared in Isla soon after Maclean, in order to counteract the schemes of his uncle. Their common friends were very desirous of preventing bloodshed, and young Macdonald offered to give up half the island, though Maclean had no just title to any part of it, provided he would take it to be holden of the clan Donald, as his predecessors had done: he likewise offered to refer the matter in dispute to the king, so averse was he from a quarrel with so near a relation, or to renew the disturbances which had so long distracted both families. But Maclean rejected all offers of accommodation, unless his nephew would immediately resign to him the title and possession of the whole island. They therefore prepared for battle: Macdonald's party were inferior in numbers, but excellent soldiers, having been trained in the Irish wars, and long inured to discipline. A desperate conflict ensued, at the head of a small lake called Loch-Groinart, which was maintained with great courage for a

long time, without seeming advantage to either party. At length Macdonald ordered his vanguard to feign a retreat, and making a circuit, he gained the advantage of a neighbouring hill: here turning again, he charged his enemies with unexpected fury, who after an ineffectual struggle gave way. The turbulent chief was himself slain, fighting courageously, with about eighty of his kindred, and two hundred common soldiers. His son, Lauchlan Barrach Maclean, who was severely wounded, fled with the rest of his men to their ships, and quitted the island. Young Macdonald was himself dangerously wounded, being shot through the body with an arrow, and was left the whole night among the dead. In the morning, signs of life were perceived, and with great care he recovered, though never perfectly. About thirty of his party were killed, and sixty wounded. Thus ended, in the year 1598, the conflicts between these two clans, which had been begun and continued for thirteen years by the restless and ambitious laird of Mull, and terminated only with his death.

BEFORE Maclean engaged in this last enterprize, he consulted one of the wëird sisters of these barbarous times, who gave him three responses; in the first, she forbade him to land in Isla on a Thursday; in the second, he was charged not to drink of the water of a well near Groinart; and in the third, he was told that one named Maclean should be slain at Groinart. The first of these orders, he trangressed involuntarily, being driven by a storm on the coast on a Thursday, and he drank

of the water of the well before he had inquired the name of the place.

THE death of Maclean had thrown so much power into the hands of Macdonald, that it excited anew the jealousy and ambition of the Earl of Argyle, who got a grant from the crown, as was common in those days, not only of the disputed lands in Isla, but of the greatest part of Cantyre and Mull; this produced new wars, which lasted many years between the Campbells and the Macdonalds, in which the former at length prevailed, and by the influence of Argyle, young Macdonald was confined in the castle of Edinburgh, where he remained in custody for a considerable time, but at last escaped by the assistance of his cousin Mac Renald, who fled with him into Spain; in the mean time, the lands in dispute were annexed to the vast domains of the house of Inverary, and continue so to this day.

THE book from whence the materials of this story are taken, contains an account of a variety of conflicts which agitated the different highland clans, all of which place in a very strong light the character of those barbarous times, as well as the fierce spirit of the chiefs.

THE most trifling cause gave rise to a quarrel, of which the hopes of plunder were the chief incentives. They conducted their plundering expeditions with the utmost policy, and reduced the whole art of theft into a regular system, which, from habit, had lost all the appearance of criminality; they considered

it as their vocation, and when they formed a party for an expedition against their neighbour's property, they and their friends prayed as earnestly to Heaven for their success, as if they were upon the point of engaging in the most laudable design. Mr. Pennant says, that the constant petition at grace of the old highland chieftains, was delivered with great fervour in these terms: "*Lord! turn the world upside down, that chieftains may make bread out of it:* the meaning of which was, that the world might become, for their benefit, a scene of rapine and confusion.

THE great object of plunder was cattle, and this gave rise to many ingenious methods of securing them. When they were stolen, they had wonderful sagacity in tracing them. When a *creach*, or great expedition, had been made against distant herds, the owners, as soon as they discovered their loss, rose in arms, and with all their friends, made an instant pursuit, tracing the cattle by their track for scores of miles. Their nicety in distinguishing the track of their cattle from those that were only casually wandering, was amazingly sagacious. They would pursue them through the territories of the different clans, with the certainty of hounds following their game; and as soon as they arrived on the estate where the track was lost, they immediately attacked the proprietor, and obliged him to recover it from his lands forwards, or make good the loss they had sustained.*

THESE times no longer exist; the abolition of feudal jurisdiction, and the extension of the common privileges of law have

* Pennant's Tour, Part I.

deprived the chiefs of a great part of their power, and it is hoped that civilization will soon follow.

JULY 20th. The morning being fine, and the sea tolerably calm, the boat came over from Gometra to convey us to Staffa. On going on board, we witnessed another proof of Mrs. Maclean's goodness, for we found wine for ourselves, and spirits for the boatmen, with a plentiful supply of provisions for us all. We left Mull about eleven o'clock, and it being perfectly calm, our rowers were obliged to exercise their oars, and soon brought us through the sound of Gometra, or the narrow passage between Gometra and Ulva, two islands lying in the mouth of *Loch-nagall*, the latter of which is of considerable size. This channel is so shallow, that a boat can only get through it at high water. As soon as we had passed this sound, we saw Staffa* about ten miles distant, presenting nothing particularly striking in its appearance, seeming only at this distance an abrupt rock, flat at the top, but whose sides descend perpendicularly into the ocean. The day continued very fine, but as a light breeze had sprung up, the sail was hoisted, and we steered for the island. When we were at the distance of about three miles, we heard what we supposed to be the report of guns, which were repeated at regular intervals, perhaps every half minute; the sound appeared to come from no great distance, and as we supposed it to proceed

* The name *Staffa* appears to be Norwegian, being derived from *Staff*, a prop or support, or figuratively a column; a name very properly applied to this island.
—PENNANT.

from some vessels either firing guns of distress, or engaged with each other, we were anxious to reach the island, that we might have a view of them: but when we turned the northern point, we perceived the cause of these sounds. In the rock on the north side of Staffa, was a cavity resembling an immense mortar, and though there was not much wind, yet the waves, which had been raised into mountains by the violence of the preceding tempest, were still very high, and broke with violence against the island. Whenever a wave came against this part of the rock, by its irresistible force it condensed the air in the cavity, and more than half filled it with water; but when the force of the wave was exhausted, and its immense pressure removed, the spring of the condensed air forced out the water in the form of a fine white froth, like smoke, accompanied with a report similar to the firing of cannon.

As we proceeded along the western coast of the island, the basaltic pillars were very evident, though in many places irregular, and reaching only half way down the rock, which, together with the pillars, was of a dark colour inclining to black. In other places they proceeded from the water upwards, and were abruptly terminated or broken. As we turned the southern point, they became vastly more regular, and the view of this side of the island was grand beyond conception: it appeared like the end of an immense cathedral, whose massy roof was supported by stupendous pillars, formed with all the regularity of art: at the bottom appeared the ends of broken pillars standing

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Drawn by H. J. France

Singha!

upright, and forming an extensive causeway. On the top of the island, above these ranges of columns, the green turf was often interrupted by lesser pillars, inclined in almost every direction, but generally dipping towards the west, forming an angle of about 30° with the horizon. The large pillars were of a dark purple hue inclining to black, but in many places richly coloured with light green, yellow, and orange. This rich variety of colour, which added greatly to the beauty of the magnificent scene, was produced by different species of lichen growing upon the stone. The pillars stand upon a base of gravelly lava, of a light brown colour, without any regularity in its form; this bed slopes gradually from the bases of the columns into the sea.

PROCEEDING still farther along the same side of the island, we had a view of Fingal's cave, one of the most magnificent sights the eye ever beheld. It appears like the inside of a cathedral of immense size, but superior to any work of art in grandeur and sublimity, and equal to any in regularity.

REGULARITY is the only part in which Art pretends to excel Nature, but here Nature has shown, that when she pleases, she can set man at nought even in this respect, and make him sensible of his own littleness. Her works are in general distinguished by a grand sublimity, in which she disdains the similar position of parts, called by mankind regularity, but which, in fact may be another name for narrowness of conception, and poverty of idea; but here, in a playful mood, she has produced a

ISLAND OF BOOSHALA.

regular piece of workmanship, and on a scale so immense as to make all the temples built by the hand of man, hide their diminished heads.

ON the east side of the cave is a magnificent causeway, formed by the bases or lower parts of pillars of immense magnitude, the upper parts having been broken off; probably by the fury of the ocean.

STILL farther to the east is the little island Booshala, or *Bhuachaille*,* separated from Staffa by a channel not twenty yards wide, through which a foaming surf was continually rushing. This little island, which is of the form of an irregular pyramid, is entirely composed of basaltic pillars, inclined in every direction, but generally pointing towards the top of the cone, and resembling very much billets of wood placed in order to be charred; many of them are, however, horizontal, and some are bent into arches of circles.

To the west of the great cave is a smaller cavern, called Corvorant's cave, which is an excavation in the current of lava that forms the base of the pillars.

THE general view here given of the south side of Staffa, and the little island Booshala, which is indeed nothing but a part of

* *Bhuachaille* signifies the herdsman, a name perhaps given by the Hebridians to this small island, from its standing near Staffa, as a herdsman does to his herd.

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Bending - Pillars in 'Saffa'

Staffa, was taken in the boat, which our boatmen with some difficulty kept nearly stationary, till my friend had executed his drawing. When he had finished, we rowed still farther eastward to a small bay, the only place where a landing can be effected, and which cannot here be accomplished unless the sea be tolerably calm, for there is such a heavy surf dashing against the rocks, that at other times such an attempt would be attended with extreme danger.

FROM the place where we landed, we had a nearer and more accurate view of the island Booshala, with some bending pillars in the side of Staffa. The top of the island appeared covered with imperfect pillars, and at the bottom of the rock where we stood was an immense heap of the lower parts of columns, inclined in different directions, forming a rude stair, up which we scrambled to the top of the island. This view from the landing place is very accurately represented in the annexed plate.

NEAR the middle of the island we found two wretched huts, built with fragments of basaltic pillars and rude pieces of lava; one of these served as the habitation of a herd and his family, who take care of the cattle that feed on the island; the other is used as a barn and cow-house. Upon the side of a hillock near the hut, we sat down and partook of the provisions with which the attentive Mrs. Maclean had supplied us, and the herd's wife presented us with some milk in a large wooden bowl, so heavy that we could scarcely lift it to our mouths: they had no smaller

vessels, nor spoons. Indeed their manner of life is extremely simple, their food consisting chiefly of milk and potatoes, with now and then a little fish. There being no wood in the island, the only fuel used by these poor people is the sods or earth, which they carefully dry, and in which the only combustible parts are the fibrous roots of grass.

THIS family resided here both winter and summer for three years, but in winter their situation was frequently very unpleasant; for during a storm, the waves beat so violently against the island, that the very house was shaken, though situated in the middle of it: indeed, the concussion was often so great, that the pot which hung over the fire partook of it, and was made to vibrate. This so much alarmed the poor inhabitants one very stormy winter, that they determined to leave the island the first favourable opportunity, for they believed that nothing but an evil spirit could have rocked it in that manner.* Since that time, they have resided here only during the summer season; and even at this time of the year, their situation is far from enviable, for it is impossible to keep a boat in the bay on account of the

* This circumstance was related to us by the herd, through the medium of one of our boatmen, who could speak a little English, and who therefore acted as our interpreter; but it seemed so fabulous, that we regarded it merely as an instance of the love of telling what will astonish. I find, however, in St. Fond's Tour, published after this was written, a confirmation of it. Some of his companions having been obliged by storms to spend two nights on Staffa, in the miserable hut I have described, declared, on their return to Torloisk, that "the sea broke upon the island with such impetuosity, and rushed into the caves which penetrated its interior with such noise, that the hut shook to its foundation, and they could get no sleep."

surf, and should sickness or death happen to any of the family, their situation would be very distressing.

THERE is a small spring of water, or rather a bason, which retains the falling rain, and was not this climate so very wet, this necessary fluid would fail them; a very few warm days would dry up their scanty supply.

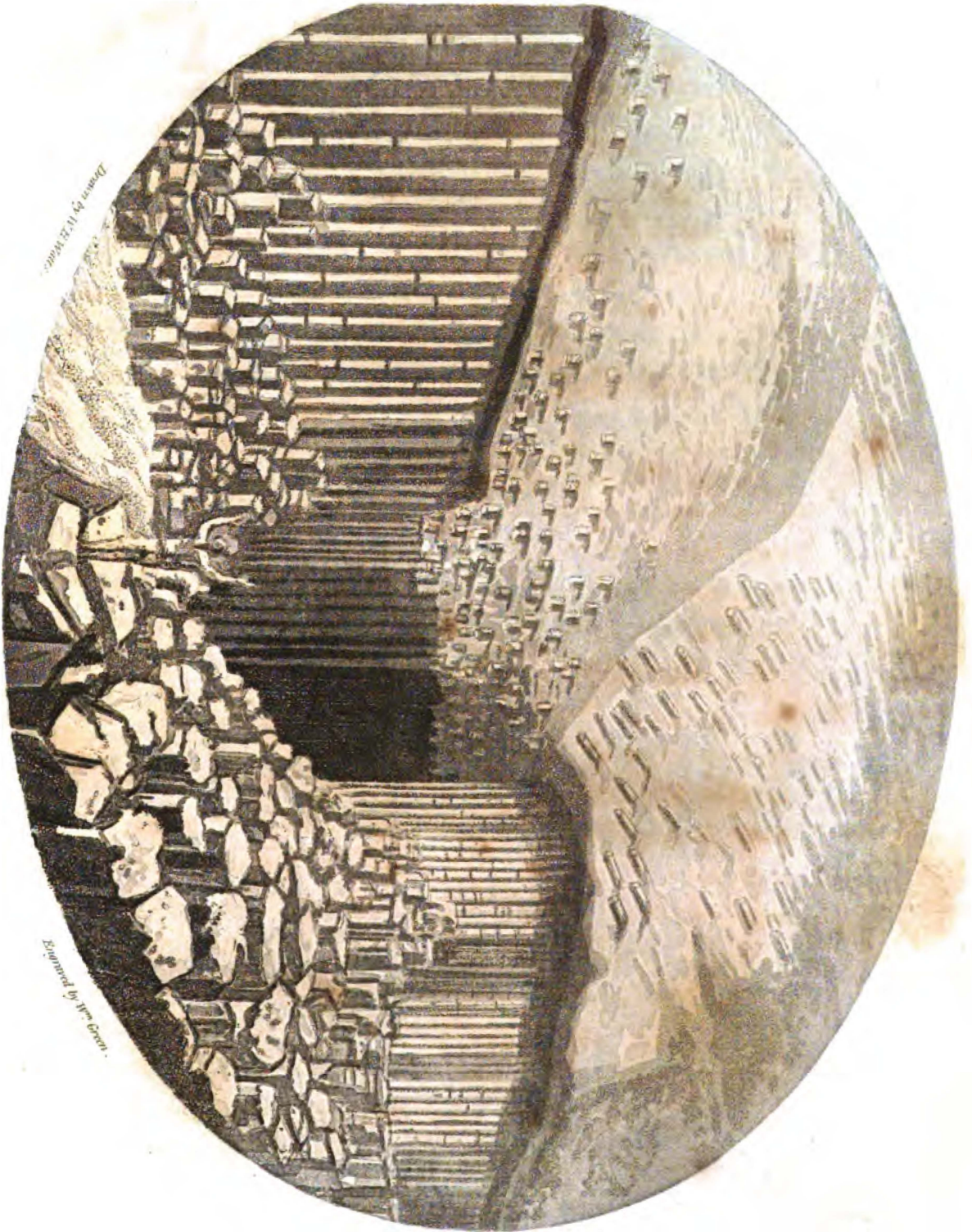
OUR repast being finished, we scrambled down the rocks, and went along the great causeway, composed, as has been already noticed, of the lower parts of very large pillars, to take a nearer view of the magnificent cave of Fingal. The basaltic columns increase in magnitude as we approach the cave, where they are the largest both in diameter and altitude, that are to be found in the island. They are generally hexagonal, though many of them are found with five sides, and some few only with four. The side of one of the hexagonal pillars, forming the great causeway near the cave, measures, on an average, about two feet; but the dimensions of the side of the hexagon, in the greater number of pillars in the island, may be about fifteen inches: there were many, however, which did not measure above nine inches, and in the island Booshala, the hexagonal sides of the pillars did not, on an average, exceed four inches.

IF we were to take a honeycomb, and fill the cells with plaster of paris, tinged with plumbago, and if, after this had become solid, we should melt out the waxen partitions by exposing it to

heat, the pillars which remained would give a very good idea of this causeway. Between these pillars is often found a cement, generally of a beautiful white colour, interspersed with rhomboidal and prismatic crystals, which are sometimes tinged with green. This substance is, in general, calcareous spar (crystalized carbonat of lime). In some instances, however, the space is filled up with infiltrations of beautiful white zeolite. In the very midst of the basaltic pillars, when broken, are to be found pieces of radiated zeolite.

THE cave viewed from this causeway is certainly one of the most magnificent objects the eye can behold. The sides are composed of ranges of basaltic pillars, diminishing to the eye in regular perspective, and supporting a massy roof, which consists of the tops of columns that have probably been washed away by the fury of the ocean. The fragments of pillars which compose this roof, are cemented by a calcareous matter similar to that above described, but of a light yellow colour, which when contrasted with the dark purple hexagons formed by the ends of the pillars, has a very fine effect, the whole resembling mosaic work.

THE bottom of the cave is filled with the sea, and in very calm weather a small boat can go up to the farther extremity: but if this should be attempted when the waves are agitated, though only in a small degree, the boat would be in danger of being dashed to pieces against the sides of the cavern. The



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Temple's View

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only way of entering it at such times, is by a causeway, not more than two feet broad, on the eastern side, formed of the bases of broken pillars, but which is very slippery, being constantly wet by the spray. It therefore requires great steadiness and caution to penetrate to the end of this celebrated cave, for the least slip or false step would precipitate the adventurer into the waves raging at his feet. The entrance of the cave being very wide, affords sufficient light to see every part of it distinctly. Upon one of the broken pillars, a corvorant had built her nest, and expressed by her hissing the displeasure she felt at her solitary retirement being molested.*

I SHALL give the dimensions of the cave from Sir Joseph Banks, who had it very accurately measured by some of his attendants.

	FEET.	INCHES.
Length of the cave from the rock without, -	237	6
————— from the pitch of the arch,	250	0
Breadth of ditto at the mouth, - - - - -	53	7
————— at the farther end, - - - - -	20	0
Height of the arch at the mouth, - - - - -	117	6
————— at the end, - - - - -	70	0
Depth of water at the mouth, - - - - -	18	0
————— at the farther end, - - - - -	9	0

* It is only the mouth or entrance of the cave that is represented in the view here given, but it is an excellent and very accurate resemblance.

ON viewing this magnificent resemblance of art, we can scarcely wonder that in rude times it should have been deemed artificial; but as it seemed too massy and arduous a task to be performed by weak mortals like ourselves, the traditions of a fanciful people have attributed it to a race of giants, who, they say, built this palace for their celebrated chief, Fion-mac-Cool, or Fingal, the father of Ossian. This idea prevails among the vulgar even at this day. Our interpreter, on hearing me express my admiration of this wonder of nature, told me that it was generally considered as the work of Fion-mac-Cool and his followers, but that, for his part, he thought it had been built by St. Columba!

FEW are the travellers of taste who have visited this charming scene, but those few have expressed their admiration in the most glowing colours. Dr. Uno Van Troil, the learned bishop of Linckœping, who visited Staffa along with Sir Joseph Banks, in his letters on Iceland, gives the following animated account of this cave.

“ How magnificent are the remains we have of the porticos of the ancients! and with what admiration do we behold the colonnades which adorn the principal buildings of our times! and yet every one who compares them with Fingal's cave, formed by Nature in the isle of Staffa, must readily acknowledge that this piece of Nature's architecture, far surpasses every thing

that invention, luxury, and taste, ever produced among the Grecks."*

THE island of Staffa is about three-quarters of a mile in length, and half a mile in breadth; and is composed almost entirely of basalt and lava. The greater part of the circumference of the island presents very fine columns on the side next the sea; the rest is a rude mass of basalt, with few appearances of regular pillars. The tops of the basaltic pillars are covered with rocks of lava, most of it in a crumbling state, but a considerable quantity of it hard, and of the honeycomb kind, of a dark colour, having many of the cells filled with bubbles of zeolite about the size of a pea. In some places this honeycomb lava takes a regular columnar form like basalt. In the little bay where we landed, were great numbers of black pebbles, consisting of fragments of basaltic pillars which had been rounded and polished by the surf; among these were some granite pebbles, which must have been brought by the waves

* Letters on Iceland by Uno Von Troil, D.D. Letter xxii. p. 273, of the English translation. Faujas de St. Fond, who came from France on purpose to see Staffa, and whose expectations were raised to the highest pitch, says, "I have seen many ancient volcanos, and have given descriptions of several superb basaltic causeways, and delightful caverns in the midst of lavas: but I have never found any thing which comes near this, either for the admirable regularity of the columns, the height of the arch, the situation, the form, the elegance of this production of nature, or its resemblance to the master-pieces of art; though this has had no share in its construction. It is therefore not at all surprizing that tradition should have made it the abode of a hero."—Travels through England and Scotland, vol. ii.

from a considerable distance, there being no granite rocks in Staffa, on the neighbouring coast of Mull.*

* The reader, I trust, will not be displeas'd with the following list of mineralogical productions of the isle of Staffa, by Faujas de St. Fond.

MINERALOGY OF THE ISLE OF STAFFA.

1. Triangular basaltic prisms, which are here, as in other places, very rare.
2. Quadrangular, equally rare.
3. Pentagonal. } These are the most common forms.
4. Hexagonal. }
5. Heptagonal, of which a few are found here.
6. Octagonal, of a very large size, sometimes four feet in diameter, exhibiting in their truncatures the elements of other smaller prisms.
7. Articulated prisms, that is, whose sections are concave on one side, and convex on the other.
8. Prisms cut through without any articulations; some of them have eight, ten, and even twelve sections.
9. Prisms, which seem to have been cast at one time, in one piece; of these, some are twelve, fifteen, twenty, or even forty feet high.
10. Prisms curved in the arch of a circle.
11. Black gravelly compact lava, which easily separates into irregular pieces.
12. Black porous lava.
13. White radiated zeolites incrust'd with basaltic lava much softer, in round pieces, oval, or irregular, and in diverging points. There are sometimes seen on the exterior part of these oval pieces, projecting crystals of cubical zeolites.
14. White radiated calcedinous zeolites. I obtained from one of the beds of muddy lava, on which the greater part of the prismatic lavas of Staffa repose, several spherical nuclei of zeolites, in diverging rays, united to the number of three or four in one group. I found some of these small balls about the size of a gall-nut, the one half of which was penetrated by a calcedinous, milky juice, and the other by a quartz juice, extremely crystalline, and transparent as the purest rock crystal.
15. Cubical white zeolites. There were some superb pieces of cubical zeolites in Staffa; but in our visit to that isle, we took away all that were most interesting.
16. Transparent cubic zeolites, of a greenish cast. I found this specimen in the interior of the cave of Fingal, in a crevice formed by the separation of two

THE soil on the top of the island is very shallow, and frequently interrupted by pillars of basalt, which rise just above the surface; but the grass, notwithstanding this, is very good. A great quantity of the *Potentilla anserina* grows here.

THIS island, though it may be regarded as one of the greatest curiosities in the world, has, till lately, been scarcely known. It is just mentioned by Buchannan by name, and though the native Hebridians considered the cave as one of the seats or palaces of their hero Fingal, it was never regarded by any intelligent traveller. A. M^r. LEACH seems to have been among the first who noticed it; he was a native of Ireland, and being on a visit at Drimnen, in Morven, in one of his fishing excursions he happened to go near it: being struck with the singularity of its appearance, he landed upon it, and examined it particularly. This was in the year 1772.

A FEW days afterwards, Sir JOSEPH BANKS, in his way to

prisms. It is therefore evident, that this small group of cubical crystals, had been formed in that fissure, in a very slow and imperceptible manner, by the juxtaposition of zeolitic particles, held in solution by the aqueous fluid. The greenish colour of these zeolites is owing to the decomposition of the iron contained in the basalt.

17. White semi-transparent zeolites, in octagonal crystals.
18. White semi-transparent zeolites, and crystals of thirty facets.
19. Granite of a red ground, and the same texture with that of the ancient Egyptian granite. This granite is found in rounded stones among the lavas, thrown by the sea upon that part of the island where the currents have formed the most considerable beach, and which must have been transported hither from a distance by currents, Staffa and the neighbouring islands being volcanic. Travels through England and Scotland, vol. ii.

Iceland, cast anchor in the sound of Mull, opposite to Drimnen, and was immediately invited to land by Mr. MACLEAN, who entertained him and his party with great hospitality. Here Mr. LEACH related to Sir Joseph, what he had seen, which excited his curiosity so strongly, that he could not resist the offer made by this gentleman, to accompany him to Staffa.

THE account of this island drawn up by this celebrated naturalist, was by him communicated to Mr. PENNANT, who published it in his Tour to the Hebrides; and this was the first description of this island ever presented to the public.

THE basaltic pillars of Staffa are all magnetic, the lower parts possessing a north, and the upper parts a south polarity.

MANY of my readers will no doubt be anxious to be informed, how these regular collections of pillars have been produced; and I wish it was in my power to present them with any thing better than what may be called a plausible hypothesis. Staffa has not been long known to the learned, but a magnificent collection of basaltic pillars, has been long since noticed on the north-east coast of Ireland, called the Giant's Causeway, which forms a kind of mole projecting into the sea. This, and some other appearances of the same kind, in different parts of the world, have for a considerable time engaged the attention of philosophers, and both they and the vulgar have amused themselves with theories concerning their formation.

THE opinions of the native Irish concerning the Giant's Causeway, were by no means unnatural. They saw a regular mole going into the sea, formed of hexagonal pillars, which had every appearance of art; the only obstacle which they perceived, was the insufficiency of human strength for a work of such magnitude: this difficulty, however, was soon overcome, and the celebrated hero, FION-MAC-COOL, the Fingal of Scotland, became the giant, under whose forming and directing hand, this singular structure was erected. As similar pillars were known to exist on the west coast of Scotland, particularly on part of the coast of Mull, it was not unnatural to think, as they knew little of latitude and longitude, that this mole, which loses itself in the sea, was once continued across the channel, connecting the Irish and British coasts together, and that, by means of it, Fingal and his attendants had ready access from one island to the other.

THIS theory, which is perfectly consonant to the notions of those with whom it originated, is, to the full, as rational as many which followed it. Dr. РОССОКЕ, a well-known traveller, and a gentleman of great industry, visited the Giant's Causeway, and gave a very good description of it. But not content with a plain history of the matters of fact, he ventured to propose a theory of its formation, which is by no means consistent with the phenomena, and, as is observed by Dr. HAMILTON, appears to be little else than the doctrine of the atoms of Epicurus in a modern dress.

HE conceives, that basaltes might once have been suspended in a watery medium, either in solution, or as a kind of mud; that at certain times, accidental fits of precipitation took place, in such a manner, as to form a range of short cylinders, whose upper ends should be chiefly convex; that as these joints became somewhat solid, a second fit of precipitation took place, forming a second range of incumbent joints, which must generally be concave, adapted to the convexity of the lower order, and thus, by successive fits of precipitation, he supposes that a set of erect cylinders might be generated in contact with each other. Now a set of cylinders can touch only in right lines, and must therefore leave empty spaces between them; but the pillars being yet soft, and yielding to the increasing pressure from above, should, he supposes, dilate and spread themselves, so as to fill up the vacuities; and thus, he supposes, the polygonal jointed pillars of the Giant's Causeway, to have been formed.*

To waste any time in the refutation of this theory, would be an insult to the understanding of my readers. I shall only request them to recollect, that in Staffa are both horizontal and curved pillars, the formation of which cannot be explained on this supposition.

WHEN mineralogy became better known, and more accurate observations had been made, basalt was supposed to be a volcanic

* See Hamilton's Letters concerning the Northern Coast of the County of Antrim, &c.

production; it was frequently accompanied by volcanic fossils, such as zeolite, obsidian, lava, pumice stone, &c.; and when chemistry was applied to mineralogy, the analogy between basaltes, which was supposed to be of volcanic origin, and of lava, which was known to be so, confirmed this idea.

THE following is a comparative view of Bergman's analysis of these two substances:

100 parts of <i>basaltes</i> contain	100 parts of <i>lava</i> contain
50 of siliceous earth	49 of siliceous earth
15 of argillaceous earth	35 of argillaceous earth
8 of calcareous earth	4 of calcareous earth
2 of magnesia	12 of iron
25 of iron	—
—	100
100	

This analysis of basaltes and lava from different places, shows them to be as much the same substance, as the analysis of any two specimens of a mineral brought from different places, would do. The analysis of basaltes and lava from the same place, would probably agree still more exactly. I regret that my time will not at present permit me to analyze the basaltes of Staffa, and the lava which lies over it. I shall, however, take the first opportunity to do this.

FROM what has been said, and from other facts which may be found related in an elaborate and excellent work, *Sur les Volcans Eteint*, by Faujas de St. Fond, as well as Hamilton's

ingenious letters concerning the coast of Antrim, there can be little reason to doubt the volcanic origin of basaltes, but in what manner they could assume such regularity of form and arrangement, seems very much to have puzzled philosophers.

M. DESMAREST, an eminent French mineralogist, and one of the first, I believe, who considered basaltes as a volcanic production, gave it as his opinion, that basaltes were produced by currents of volcanic lava. From all the circumstances which he had observed in an extensive tour, he concluded that basaltic columns were formed by the gradual refrigeration of a mass of fluid lava, during its slow and retarded progress over the subjacent soil. In the year 1776, Ferber declared, that from every examination of volcanic productions, in which he had been engaged, he had been led to the same conclusion. Mr. Raspe in the same year, gave it as his opinion, that prismatic basaltes should be looked upon as currents of lava, cooled in sea-water, or cooled of themselves under ground. Buffon was likewise of opinion, that when a current of lava "arrived at the margin of the sea, the water by its immensity, by the resistance of its cold, and by its power of arresting and extinguishing fire, soon consolidates the torrent of burning matter, which can now proceed no farther, but rises up, accumulates new strata, and forms a perpendicular wall."

It may indeed be observed, that as the Giant's Causeway, and many other collections of basaltes are found near the sea,

it has been the opinion of many philosophers, besides those above mentioned, that they have been produced by torrents of lava suddenly congealing from the contact of water, and which, from that circumstance, have taken on the prismatic form. But a moment's reflection ought to satisfy us, that the furious encounter of a river of liquid fire with the water of the ocean, so far from being suited to form the elegant and neat arrangements of basaltic pillars, such as those of Staffa and the Giant's Causeway, could only produce irregularity and confusion. Besides, many collections of basaltic pillars have been discovered at a great distance from the sea, and where there are no appearances which indicate that the sea has ever been near these parts. See St. Fond's *Mineralogie des Volcans*.

Mr. HAMILTON is of opinion, that crystals of lava have been formed within the bowels of the earth, where it has been suffered to cool very gradually. "There seems," he observes, "but one operation in nature, which affords any rational principle of analogy, by which we can attempt to explain the formation of basaltic pillars. It is certain that the particles of most bodies, when removed from each other to a proper distance, and suffered to approach gradually, assume a peculiar form of arrangement, as if the parts of each species of matter did, independent of their general properties of cohesion and gravity, possess also private laws and affinities tending to produce these specific forms. It does not appear to be a matter of importance by what medium the particles are disunited, provided only that

a sufficient separation and a gradual approximation be allowed to take place.

THUS, whether bodies are dissolved by fire, or by a watery medium, the phenomena of crystallization are equally observable, when proper art has been applied to render its effects visible; and since basaltes and its attendant fossils bear strong marks of the effects of fire, it does not seem unlikely that its pillars may have been formed by a process exactly analogous to what is commonly denominated crystallization by fusion.*

THOUGH I think that every person who has examined with attention collections of basaltic pillars, will coincide in the opinion that they have been formed by lava, or a matter similar to it, in fusion in the bowels of the earth, and left to cool slowly; yet there are some reasons which would lead to a suspicion, that they have not been formed by the usual mode of crystallization: for it may be observed, that crystals are very seldom, if ever, found in any considerable quantity running in the same direction, but either inclining from one another, or, what is more common, placed towards one another in several sloping directions. This must have been observed by every one who has examined with the slightest attention, druses or collections of crystals. They are also generally separated from each other when they are regular: the nature of crystallization requires this, for the several particles of which the crystals are composed, must have

* Letters concerning the coast of Antrim.

the liberty of following that power which affects their regular disposition."*

THE basaltic columns are, however, on the contrary, parallel to each other, and so close together, that the point of a knife can hardly be introduced between them: besides, most of the pillars are divided into several parts or joints, which seem to be placed upon each other, fitting very exactly: this is the case with many of the basaltic prisms of Staffa, and still more so with those of the Giant's Causeway; and though we do see crystals formed one above another in different layers, when the solvent has visibly diminished at different times; yet the upper crystals never fit so exactly to the lower ones, as to produce connected prisms of the same length and depth as all the strata connected together, but, on the contrary, each stratum, taken separately, forms its own crystals.

It may besides be observed, that the fracture of basalt does not show a plane smooth surface under the microscope, but appears like grains of different magnitude, or resembles fine rays running in different directions. Basalt is likewise often found full of air-holes, and these holes, when large, are frequently filled with crystals of zeolite; circumstances which do not correspond with the laws of crystallization.

THE sides of each basaltic column are unequal among them-

* Bergman.

selves, so that we very seldom find either a pentagonal or hexagonal prism with equal sides; but the contiguous sides of adjoining pillars are always of equal dimensions, so as nearly to touch and perfectly to correspond in all their parts: and though the angles be of various magnitudes, yet the sum of the contiguous angles of adjoining pillars always makes up four right angles, so that no void spaces are left among the basaltes, as is the case in crystals, and on this account the surface of the causeway exhibits to view a regular and compact pavement of polygon stones.

THESE observations would lead us to suppose, that the mass of which the pillars are composed, has been once fluid, or in a state of fusion, and that as it has cooled, it has contracted or split into several parts, as we know is the case with earthy substances containing a considerable quantity of clay.

BASALTES in this, as well as in the chemical analysis, resembles very exactly the nodules of argillaceous iron stone, which are found in various parts of the world, and especially about Kilbride, Haddington, Dunbar, and various parts of Scotland. This stone is particularly described by the late ingenious Dr. Hutton, in the first volume of the Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and a print of it given, illustrating his theory of the earth.*

* There is likewise a description and engraving of this stone given in the Travels of Faujas de St. Fond, Vol. I. p. 194. English Translation.

THE form of these stones is circular, and resembles two tea-saucers with their edges joined together; the size varies from three inches to a foot diameter. When divided by a section through the circular edge, the internal part is full of prismatic septaria, the interstices being sometimes empty, but at other times filled with crystals of quartz, calcareous spars or pyrites, and resembles the top of a basaltic causeway. If instead of making a section through the circular edge, the flat edges of one of these stones be broken off with a hammer, so as to leave only the thickest part in the middle, basaltic pillars are frequently discovered. In the mineralogical collection of Anderson's Institution, is a beautiful Staffa in miniature found in one of these stones.

THERE can, I think, be no doubt that these stones have been once in fusion, that the outside being exposed to the air, or surrounded by some other cold medium, has cooled quickly: but the internal parts cooling more slowly, have contracted and left little spaces, which in many instances have been filled up by crystals of matter shooting from the parts not yet become solid. Indeed, from the appearance of these stones, and their exactly agreeing with lava and basaltes in their analysis, it seems highly probable that they have been balls of liquid lava thrown into the air from volcanos, and falling either into the sea, or upon the soft parts of the earth, have sunk into it, and become flattened by the fall.

In a similar way it is reasonable to suppose, that basaltic pillars have been formed. A mass of lava in the interior parts of the earth cooling gradually, contracts and forms these pillars; they seem to have been produced exactly in the same way as prisms of starch, to which they bear a very strong resemblance. As the water evaporates or escapes, the prisms of starch are formed by the contraction of the mass, and as the caloric escapes from a mass of fluid lava, prisms of basaltes are produced.

It may be objected, that as lava frequently resembles glass, or appears to have undergone vitrification, and may even be converted into glass, of which bottles can be made by mere fusion, these crystals or prisms, instead of being opaque, should have a vitreous appearance. In answer to this, it may be observed, that the basaltes of Staffa in a moderate heat, fuses into a fine black glass of great tenacity. I have effected this fusion in a small crucible, by the furnace of a laboratory; and besides, the purest flint glass when suffered to cool very slowly, forms an opaque mass resembling a stone. It does not, indeed, contract or split, probably from having no clay in its composition; but I have found in some of these opaque pieces of glass very beautiful crystals. Mr. Keir has described similar crystals in the LXVI. volume of the Philosophical Transactions.

Sir JAMES HALL, along with Dr. HOPE of Edinburgh, and Dr. KENNEDY, has lately made some experiments that tend strongly to confirm this idea, an account of which will in all

probability be shortly given to the public. They took whinstone, which is a coarse grained basalt, and fused it in a crucible by means of heat. It formed a very black glass, which when cooled pretty quickly, resembled lava, but when allowed to cool very slowly, it became whinstone again. Basalt likewise afforded a similar glass, which when cooled pretty quickly, had the appearance of lava, but when allowed to cool very slowly, was converted into whinstone.

THIS opinion is farther strengthened by the circumstance of volcanic mountains abounding with basalt. Mr. Houel observes, that all along the eastern side of Mount Etna, the soil is broken, but filled with beautiful varieties of basalt: indeed, according to this author, there is no volcano in Europe so rich as Etna in basalt, nor where so many curious figures of it are to be seen.

SIR William Hamilton has mentioned basalt which have been thrown up during an eruption of Mount Vesuvius; and Faliasi has given a view of an extinguished volcano, with pillars in the crater.*

FROM all these considerations, we may I think conclude, that in most volcanic countries, a quantity of pyrites very rich in iron, along with argillaceous and other earths, has been fused into a thin liquid mass by the fire of a volcano. On an eruption

* See Sullivan's Excellent View of Nature, vol. ii.

taking place, that part of the lava or liquid matter, which is thrown out by the expansive force of the vapours, or fire, and brought into contact with the air, cools too suddenly to admit of any regular form, but that which remains quiet within the bowels of the mountain will cool very slowly, and be left without interruption to form crystals, or rather, by the gradual diminution of its bulk, to split into regular pillars, like starch when it is drying.

THAT the island of Staffa is a small relic of such a subterraneous collection of pillars, which have been laid bare by the violence of the sea, or perhaps by some of the adjacent parts sinking or giving way, seems very likely from the form of the island exhibited in the general view, where it appears to have sloped gradually on each side to the edge of the water, but these sides have been abruptly broken off, or washed away by the fury of the Atlantic continually beating against it. The pillars are not confined to the exterior surface of the island, which would have been the case, had they been formed of lava which had cooled by flowing into the sea; but as far as we can go into the cave, pillars are found, and the whole island most probably consists of them.

THOUGH the weather was very fine when we first reached Staffa, yet we no sooner landed on that island, than it began to rain, and continued to do so the remainder of the day. When we had seen every thing worth notice, we went on board our boat, and set sail for Icolmkill with a fair wind, often casting

behind a look on this singular island, which we left with regret, and which is undoubtedly the greatest natural curiosity in Europe, if not in the world.

ICOLMKILL is between three and four leagues from Staffa. At a considerable distance we could discern the tower of the cathedral, which became every moment more distinct. We sailed between Icolmkill and a small island called the isle of Nuns; and as we approached the former, we saw a considerable number of kelp-makers at work on the shore; we landed in a small bay, opposite the only village in the island, and were conducted to a wretched hut, the only public house, which was to be our residence for the night, an idea that brought along with it no very agreeable sensations. After having refreshed ourselves, we walked out to inquire for the schoolmaster, who was to point out to us the different remains of antiquity with which this celebrated island abounds; but we were informed, that he was gone over to Mull to dig his peats; we, however, took a slight look at some of the dilapidated buildings, and on our return were met by the schoolmaster, whose name is MACLEAN, and who is the successor of the insular antiquarian mentioned by Dr. Johnson.

HE conducted us to a small bay, a little to the west of the village, called the Bay of Martyrs, where all the illustrious dead were landed who were brought from distant parts to be interred; on no other occasion did people land in this bay, a

custom which is yet continued, for every corpse brought from the neighbouring coast of Mull for interment, is still landed here.

As the evening was far advanced, we appointed the schoolmaster to meet us at six o'clock the next morning. We went to bed in a most wretched apartment, with a floor of liquid mire, and open to the roof, except where two or three boards had been put over to prevent the rain from falling on the beds; but this was found to be a very inadequate preventative, for the night being very wet, the 'drops fell heavily on us. We had, however, plenty of companions in the room; for, besides the light infantry, &c. in the beds, we had several chickens, a tame lamb, two or three pigs, a dog, and some cats, which last went and came at pleasure through a hole in the roof, so that we could not expect a very comfortable night's rest. Notwithstanding these obstacles to our repose, the fatigue of the day contributed, with a little whisky toddy, to "steep our senses in forgetfulness," and we enjoyed some hours of sleep, from which we were awoken by the attempts of a young cock to crow; it had mounted on my bed, and flapping its wings began to ape its seniors in a manner so ludicrous, that Mr. Watts was seized with such a fit of laughter, as effectually to put an end to our repose.*

* The farthest hut to the left, in the view of the Nunnery, is the inn where we slept.

As this island is much visited by the curious, it is surprising that there should be no better place for the accommodation of strangers; it would not be unworthy the munificence of the noble proprietor, to render the resort of pilgrims to [these precious relics of antiquity more commodious. As things are at present, it is best, if possible, to come to this place early in the day, in order to get away before night; but persons are sometimes detained here by the adverse elements for two or three days..

JULY 21. Our antiquary was punctual to the appointed time, and conducted us to the ruins; which point out, in striking contrast, the present state of this little island, and its condition in former times, when it was the luminary of the Caledonian regions, and diffused knowledge and civilization through the ignorant clans of barbarians for many miles. In this sequestered isle, learning flourished, and found a safe retreat, when western Europe lay buried in ignorance and barbarity; and from this seminary issued pious and learned monks, as well as laymen, who again revived learning, and propagated Christianity through many kingdoms of Europe.

I SHOULD imagine, that few could view these venerable remains of ancient piety, without feeling, in some degree, the sentiments so admirably expressed by the poet:

I do love these ancient ruins;

We never tread upon them, but we set.

Our foot upon some reverend history.
 And questionless, here, in these open courts,
 Which now lie naked to the injuries
 Of stormy weather, some men lie interr'd
 Lov'd th' church so well, and gave so largely to 't,
 They thought it should have canopy'd their bones
 'Till doomsday. But all things have an end.
 Churches and cities, that have diseases like to men,
 Must have like death that we have.

PREVIOUS to describing these ruins, I shall give a short account of their foundation, which will, I hope, render the description more intelligible, as well as more interesting to the reader.

THIS island is between two and three miles in length, and about one in breadth, and is mentioned by writers under different names. BEDE calls it Hii, but the proper name is I, sounded like ee in English. I in Gaëlic, signifies an island, and this, by way of eminence, is called the Island. The monkish writers call it Jona, which, if derived from the Gaëlic, signifies the island of Waves,* a name very characteristic of it in times of storm. Others think that Jona is derived from a Hebrew word, signifying a dove, in allusion to the name of *St. Columba*, the founder of its fame.†

* Stat. Account of Kilfinichen and Kilvicuen.

† Pennant's Tour.

THE name of Jona is now never used in the country; it is always called I, by the natives, though, among modern writers, it is generally known by the name of Icolmkill, or I-Columbkill, which signifies the isle of Columba of the cells: he being so called from his having founded so many churches and monasteries.

It appears that the Druids possessed this isle before the introduction of Christianity: at a very small distance from the cathedral is a green hill, called to this day *Claodb nan Druineach*, or the burial place of the Druids. According to tradition, the first Christians banished the Druids, and took possession of their seat.

COLUMBA is represented by many of his biographers, as a wonderful, and, indeed, a supernatural character; and a number of strange tales concerning the miracles performed by him, are handed down to us.* It must, indeed, be owned, that after stripping his history of the ridiculous and fabulous legends with which it is disfigured and disgraced, enough remains to convince us, that he was a man of great political abilities, of an undaunted and firm disposition, and zeal in religious matters, capable of carrying him through any danger or fatigue.

* An account of the life, miracles, and writings of St. Columba, has lately been published by the Rev. Dr. Smith of Campbeltown.

THIS pious man, instigated by religious zeal, left Ireland, his native country, in the year 565, with the intention of preaching the gospel to the Picts. Some say, that having been maltreated in his native island, he left it with resentment, vowing never to make a settlement within sight of Ireland; a circumstance which derogates considerably from his sanctity, and is utterly inconsistent with the mild spirit and example of the founder of his religion.

HE set out from Ireland in a wicker boat covered with hides, called in Gaelic *curach*, and first landed in Oransay; but finding that the hated island which he had left, was visible from thence, he soon departed, but not till he had, as some say, founded a monastery, the ruins of which still exist. ORAN, an intimate friend and companion of his, gave his name to the island.

ON leaving this island, he came to I, where, on the first fine day, he ascended several hills, to ascertain whether he could see his native country; on each of these hills he erected a heap of stones, most of which remain. The last which he ascended is still called by the people of the island, *Carnan-chul-reb-Eirinn*, or the height of the back turned to Ireland.

HERE Columba soon began to be distinguished by the sanctity of his manners, and the miracles which he is reported to have wrought. He went to the court of the Pictish king, BRADUS, probably with the design of converting him to christianity;

but was refused an audience by that prince, who even ordered the gates of his palace to be shut against him: but the Saint, by the power of his word, instantly caused them to fly open,* which miracle immediately converted the heathen king, who was so pleased with Columba, that he gave him the island of I, where he soon afterwards founded a cell of monks, or monastery, of which he was the head.

It would appear that these monks first differed from the church of Rome, both in the clerical tonsure, the observation of Easter, and several other ceremonies; and some have thought that Columba borrowed his regulations from an oriental monastic order.† However this may be, he here led a very exemplary life, and was greatly respected for the sanctity of his manners. At length, in the 77th year of his age, he died, in the arms of his disciples, and was interred in this island; though the Irish contend that his remains were removed to Down, and deposited between those of St. Patrick and Saint Bridget. This, however, is denied by the natives of I, who still point out his grave.

THE religious establishments in this island, continued in the unmolested exercise of their duties for two centuries; but in the year 807 they were attacked by the Danes, who, with their usual barbarity, slew part of the monks, and forced the remainder,

* Pennant's Tour, and Smith's Life of St. Columba.

† See the Rise of Monastic States, by Twisden.

with Cellach, their abbot, to seek safety by flight. The monastery remained depopulated for several years, but on the retreat of the Danes received a new order, the Cluniacs, who continued there till the dissolution of monastic institutions, when the revenues were united to the see of Argyle, and on the abolition of episcopacy became the property of the Duke.

THE first of the ruins we visited were those of the Nunnery, situated just above the hut where we slept. Here is a very large court, which has undoubtedly contained cloisters and proper habitations for the nuns: nothing however remains except the walls; but the nunnery church is quite entire, excepting a part of the roof, which has fallen in.

THIS church is fifty-eight feet long and twenty broad. A few years ago, the Duke's factor ordered a door, with a lock and key, to preserve this relic from destruction and profanation: but the lock has been forced, and the impious natives used this sanctuary to fold their cattle in during the night, tying the door fast with ropes. This fate was prophesied in the following distich, which is ascribed to St. Columba, but which likewise holds out the prospect of these ruins recovering their ancient splendour hereafter:

An I mo chridhe, I mo ghraidh
 An aite guth mamaich bidh geum bà;
 Ach mun tig an saoghal gu crich
 Bithidh I mar a bha.

Harvesting in Northumbria



Designed by W. H. Sturt

Engraved by J. M. Green

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IMITATION.

O sacred dome, and my belov'd abode!
 Whose walls now echo to the praise of God;
 The time shall come when lauding monks shall cease,
 And lowing herds here occupy their place;
 But better ages shall thereafter come,
 And praise re-echo in this sacred dome.*

THE floor of the church is covered thick with cow-dung, excepting the eastern end, which Mr. Pennant caused to be cleared, and where the tomb of the last prioress is discernible, though considerably defaced. Her figure is carved in alto-relievo, on the face of a black marble stone; an angel is seen on each side, and above them is a comb and a small plate; these figures occupy only half the stone. On the other half is represented the Virgin Mary, with a mitre on her head, and the Infant in her arms, and above her are figures of the sun and moon; at her feet, between the two figures, is this address, supposed from the prioress: *Sancta Maria, ora pro me*; and round the stone, in old British characters, is the following inscription:

HIC jacet Domina Anna Donaldi Ferleti filia, quondam Prioressa de Jona, quæ obiit, aⁿo m^o. d^o. xi^{mo}. cujus animam Abrahamo commendamus.

* Smith's Life of St. Columba, p. 2.

THERE are some other monuments on the floor, but they are so effaced that scarcely any thing can be made out. The roof over the eastern end of this chapel remains entire, consisting of four arches meeting at the top: the intervals are filled up with thin stones placed edgeways, forming a very handsome vault or canopy. The architecture of the nunnery, which is in the Saxon style, has by no means been bad.

THIS nunnery was filled with canonesses of St. Augustine, and dedicated to St. Oran, the friend of Columba. Though these nuns were permitted to live in community for a considerable time after the Reformation, yet it was not till many years after Columba came to I, that he allowed them, or any other women, to settle in that island; for he was no friend to the fair sex; but, on the contrary, is said to have held them in such abhorrence, that he detested cattle on their account, and would not permit a cow to come near his sacred walls, because *'sfar am bi bo, bi' dh bean, 'sfar am bi bean, bi' dh mallacha*, "where there is a sow there must be a woman; and where there is a woman, there must be mischief."* Columba knew well the human heart; he knew that it was much easier to avoid than resist temptation; it was therefore politic in him to keep the fair tempters out of the way of the monks.

THE nuns lived in a small isle near I, which is still called the Isle of Nuns. Columba at last relented so far as to allow them

* Pennant's Tour.

this establishment in his island, where they wore a white gown, and above it a rocket of fine linen.

ON the north side of the nunnery chapel, and very near it, stand the ruins of an edifice, said to have been the parish church.

NORTHWARDS from this building, we came to a causeway leading to the cathedral, called the Main Street, which is joined by two others, one coming from the bay where we landed, called the Royal Street, and another from the bay of martyrs, called Martyr Street, along which the illustrious dead used to be carried for interment.

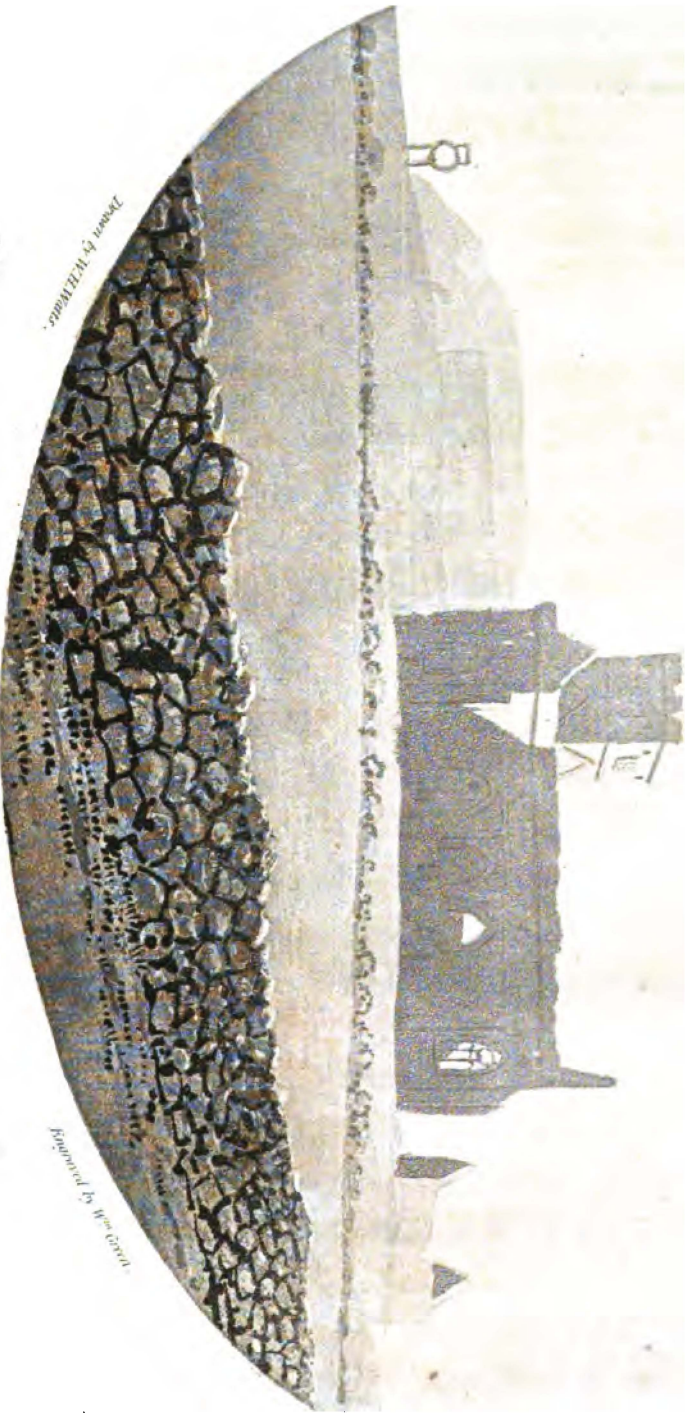
ON our left we passed an elegant cross, which we were told was called Maclean's Cross, being one of a great number, Mr Pennant says three hundred and sixty, that were standing in this island at the Reformation, but which were soon after demolished by order of a provincial assembly held in this island. These crosses were probably erected in consequence of vows, or perhaps as monuments, with a vain hope, as is observed by the above-mentioned writer, of perpetuating the memory of the founders: but the fanaticism of the reformers could not endure these harmless monuments.

PROCEEDING towards the cathedral, we entered a court so overgrown with a monstrous sized butter-bur, that it was scarcely possible to move along. In this court are two crosses,

one called St. Martin's, which is very elegant, and formed of one piece of red granite, fourteen feet high; the other, called St. John's Cross, is much broken.

THE cathedral, which we now entered, has a very handsome choir, a tower in the middle, with two side aisles, the whole forming a cross. The tower, which is three stories high, is supported by four arches, adorned with figures in basso relievo: these arches are supported by pillars about ten feet high, and eight and a half in circumference; the capitals of these pillars are ornamented with several grotesque figures, among which is an angel with a pair of scales weighing souls, and the devil keeping down the scale in which the standard is, with his paw. The tower which we ascended by a narrow winding stair, is almost entire, and some of the roof-timbers are still remaining. Within these few years, a part of the east end of the transverse fell down.

THE length of the cathedral, from east to west, is thirty-eight yards, the breadth eight, and the length of the transept about twenty-four yards. The large east window has been a beautiful specimen of the Gothic style, but its light and elegant workmanship is much injured. One thing remarkable in this building is, that the windows are almost all of different forms, and in different styles of architecture: in the upper part of the tower is a circular window of peculiar construction, and so well contrived, as to admit plenty of light, yet exclude the wind and



Drawn by H. J. H. H. H.

Engraved by W. J. H. H.

Cathedral and Bishop's House of Yorkville

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rain; so that it probably served the purpose of a ventilator to the building as well as a window.

AT the upper end of the chancel formerly stood a large table, or altar, of white marble: this, we were told by our guide, reached from one side of the chancel to the other, which is eight yards. If this be true, the marble slab must have been the largest ever seen in this country; but Mr. Pennant, on the authority of Sacheverel, who saw it when almost entire, says that the size of it was six feet by four, which is much more probable. This altar was brought from a quarry near the church of Strath, in the Isle of Skye.* Of this altar there are now no remains. The common opinion was, that a fragment of this stone was a defence against shipwrecks, fire, and miscarriages, and ensured to the possessor success in whatever he undertook: hence we need not be surprized that the inhabitants of this island should each secure a bit of it, or that they sent fragments of it to their friends in distant parts; it was likewise sold to strangers who visited the island, and who were anxious to possess a piece of so valuable a relick. Mr. Pennant says, that at the time when he visited the island, a very small portion only was left, and even that he contributed to diminish. In the Museum of Anderson's Institution, in Glasgow, is a good specimen of this altar, brought from Icolmkill by the founder: it is a granulated marble, of a pure white.

* Knox's Tour, p. 151.

VERY near the place where this altar stood, on the north side of the choir, is a tomb-stone of black marble, quite entire, on which is a very fine recumbent figure of the Abbot MACFINGONE, as large as life, in his sacred robes, with a crosier in one hand, and the other lifted up to his chin; elbowing two lions at one end, and spurning two at the other: this elegant tomb-stone is supported by four pedestals, about a foot high, and round the margin is this inscription:

+ HIC + JACET + JOHANNES MACFINGON AB-
BAS DE IJ + Qui Obiit Anno MD. Cujus Animo propicietur
Altissimis. Amen.

JUST opposite this tomb, on the other side, is one of free-stone, executed in the same manner; this is the tombstone of Abbot Kenneth, but is much defaced.

ON the floor is the figure of an armed knight, rudely sculptured, with an animal sprawling at his feet.

ON the right of the cathedral, but contiguous to it, are the remains of the college; some of the cloisters are still visible, and the common hall is nearly entire, containing stone seats in niches for the disputants.

THE styles of architecture in this cathedral are different; the arches of one part being circular segments, which is the



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Engraved by W. G. Green.

College and Cathedral in Scotland.

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Saxon or Roman, and the others pointed, or gothic : this, however, is the case with many other abbeys and cathedrals.

AT a small distance from the church, was pointed out to us a spot, under which lay concealed the black stones, upon which the old highland chieftains, when they made contracts and alliances, used to take the oath, which was considered as more sacred than any other obligation, and could not be violated without the blackest infamy. Macdonald, lord of the isles, delivered the rights of their lands to his vassals in the isles and on the main land, with uplifted hands and bended knees on the black stones ; and in this posture, and before many witnesses, solemnly swore that he would never recal the rights he then granted. So sacred was an oath sworn upon these stones, that it became proverbial for a person who was certain of what he affirmed, to say that he could make oath of it upon the black stones.—Martin's Description of the Western Isles, p. 260.

THE revenues of this monastery and cathedral, were once very considerable. DONALD MONRO, dean of the isles, who visited many of them in the year 1549, says, that several islands belonged to it, as well as a considerable number of churches and chapels in Galloway, with large estates annexed ; these, it seems, were taken from them, and granted to the canons of Holyroodhouse, about the year 1180.* All the females who died in this

* Sir J. Dalrymple's Collection, and Pennant's Tour.

island were buried in the nunnery, and all the males in or near the abbey; and this custom still continues.

A LITTLE to the north of the cathedral, are the remains of the bishop's house, with his grounds and garden still inclosed; from which it would seem, that the bishops who resided here were content with a moderate share of the good things of this life, the house being very small. Here resided the bishops of the isles, after the Isle of Man was separated from them, and erected into a separate see. This event happened in the reign of Edward I. previous to which their cathedral was in the Isle of Man, but afterwards the abbots of Icolmkill allowed them the use of their church. They formerly had the title of bishops of Sodor and Man, but on the erection of two separate sees, the bishops of Man retained the old title, which they still keep, and those of the other see were called bishops of the isles.

THE title of these prelates, during the conjunction of Man and Sodor, has, as Mr. Pennant justly observes, been universally mistaken, till explained by Dr. Macpherson. It was, before that time, always supposed to be derived from Sodor, an imaginary town, either in Man or Icolmkill. During the time that the Norwegians possessed the isles, they divided them into two parts; the northern, which comprehended all that lay to the north of the point of Ardnamurchan, were called *Nordereys*, from *Norder*, north, and *I* or *Ey*, an island. And the *Sudereys*

took in those that lay to the south of that promontory.* But as the Sudereys was the most important division, it had the honour of giving the name to the bishopric, and the Isle of Man retained both titles after the separation, as the King of England retains that of King of France.†

VERY near the cathedral is a cell, said to be the burial place of St. Columba, and just within the great entry into the church, the bason for holy water still remains entire.

A LITTLE to the south of the cathedral, is a small chapel, pretty entire, called Oran's Chapel, which is said to be the first building attempted on this island by Columba; but that, by the machinations of some evil spirit, the walls tumbled down as fast as they were built up. Columba, on this betook himself to prayer, in a retired part of the island, and was told by an angel, that the building would never be completed till a human victim was buried alive. His friend and companion, Oran, generously offered himself as the victim, and was interred accordingly. After three days, Columba wished to take a farewell look at his old friend, and ordered the earth and stones to be removed from the tomb; when, to the astonishment of all present, Oran started up, and began to reveal "the secrets of his prison house," telling many strange things, and in particular, that hell was only a creature of the priests, and that no such place existed.

* Torfæus Hist. Orcad.

† Pennant's Tour.

The politic Columba immediately ordered the earth to be flung in again; poor Oran was overwhelmed, and an end effectually put to his prating.

IN Oran's chapel are several tomb-stones, and among them one with much carved work, but without any inscription, which was pointed out to us as the burial place of Oran.

IN a small inclosure, near the south end of the chapel; lie the remains of Lauchlan Macfingon, father of John the Abbot; over his grave is placed a plain black stone, with the following inscription in the old British character:

Hæc est crux Lauchlani Macfingon, et ejus filij Johannis, Abbatis de Ij facta. Anno Dom. M^ott. CCCCLXXXIX.

WEST from this, at a small distance, lies a stone much impaired by time, with an inscription in the same character, but rude, and seemingly more ancient; without any date. This is the burial place of Angus Macdonald, of Cantyre and Isla, of whom mention has been before made in speaking of the feuds of the clans. The inscription is as follows:

Hic jacet Angusius filius Angusii Maic Domlinaab Domini d Isla.

ON the south side of the chapel is the gravestone of Ailean Nan Sop, a Ceatharnarch, chief of a family of the clan of Maclean, from whom is descended the present worthy laird of Tor-

loisk. On this stone is the figure of a ship under sail, a standard, four lions, and a tree. In this chapel is likewise the tomb of a Maclean of Lochbuie, grasping a pistol in his right hand, and in his left a sword. A Maclean of Col likewise lies buried here; the effigy is in armour, with a sword in his left hand. Very near the tomb of Angus Macdonald, lies his enemy and persecutor, the ambitious Maclean of Duart; the effigy likewise in armour, bearing a shield and a two-handed sword.

Here friends and foes

Lie close, unmindful of their former feuds.*

SOUTH of the chapel is an inclosure, containing a great number of tombs, but so overgrown with weeds, that few of the inscriptions are legible. In this inclosure lie the remains of 48 Scottish kings, four kings of Ireland, eight Norwegian monarchs, and one king of France, who were ambitious of reposing in this holy ground, where they would not mix with vulgar dust. There was likewise another, and probably a greater inducement to prefer this place as the receptacle of their remains; viz. a belief in the following ancient prophecy:

Seachd bliadna roimh'n brhaà
 Thig muir thar *Eirin* re aon tra'
 Sthar *Ile* ghu irm ghlais
 Ach Snàmhaidh *I Colum* clairich.

* Blair.

TOMBS OF

IMITATION.

SEVEN years before that awful day,
 When time shall be no more,
 A watery deluge will o'er sweep
 Hibernia's mossy shore:
 The green clad Isla too shall sink,
 While with the great and good,
 Columba's happy isle will rear
 Her towers above the flood.

BESIDES these tombs, where the bones of monarchs have probably long since mouldered away; in the same sanctuary, but at a respectful distance, lie most of the lords of the isles. The tomb-stones are very numerous, but scarcely any of them have any legible characters. Many of them most probably cover the remains of men, who, as Dr. Johnson observes, did not expect to be so soon forgotten.*

* Donald Monro, Dean of the Isles, gives the following account of these burial places, as they appeared when he visited them in the year 1549. "Within this isle of Colmkill, there is ane sanctuary, also, or kirkzaird, callit in Erische, Relig-Oran, quhilk is a very fair kirkzaird, and weill biggit about with staine and lyme: into this sanctuary ther is three tombes of staine formit like little chapels; with ane braid gray marble or quhin staine in the gavil of ilk ane of the tombes. In the staine of the ane tombe there is wretten in Latin letters, *Tumulus Regum Scotiae*, that is, the tombe ore grave of the Scotts kinges. Within this tombe, according to our Scotts and Erische cronickels, there layes forty-eight crowned Scotts kinges, through the quhilk this isle has beine richlie dotat be the Scotts kinges, as we have said. The tombe on the south syde forsaide hes this inscription: *Tumulus Regum Hiberniae*, that is, the tombe of the Irland kinges: for we have in our auld Erische cronickels, that ther wes foure Irland kinges eirdit in the said tombe. Upon the north syde of our Scotts tombe, the inscriptione bears *Tumulus Regum Norwegiae*,

THE memory of a celebrated physician to the family of Maclean, has, however, met with a better fate. The following inscription on his tomb is still legible, though in a few years the slow but sure hand of time will have effaced it :

Hic jacet Johannes Betonius, Maclenarum Familæ Medicus,
qui obiit 19 Novembris 1657, Æt. 63.

Donaldus Betonus fecit 1674.

Ecce cadit Jaculo victrici mortis inique

Qui toties alios solverat ipse malis,*

Soli Deo gloria.

Many of the Beatons who resided at Pennicross, in Mull, were physicians. The family is now extinct; but they are still spoken of in the country with admiration for their skill in their

that is, the tombe of the kinges of Norroway : in the quhilk tombe, as we find in our ancient Erische cronickels, ther layes eight kinges of Norroway : and als we find in our Erische cronickels, that Coelus, king of Norroway, commandit his nobils to take his bodey, and burey it in Colm-kill, if it chancit him to die in the isles, bot he was so discomfitit, that ther remained not so maney of his armye, as wald bury him ther, therfor he was eirded in Kyle, after he stroke ane field against the Scotts, and was vanquishst be them. Within this sanctuary also, lyes the maist part of the lords of the isles, with their lynage, M'Kynnon and M'Guare with their lynages, with sundrie uthers inhabitants of the hail isles, because this sanctuarey wes wont to be the sepulture of the best men of all the isles, and als of our kinges as we have said : becaus it was the maist honorable and ancient place that was in Scotland in thair dayes, as we reid."—Description of the Western Iles by Donald Monro, High Dean of the Iles.

* Proud Æsculapius' son !

Where are thy boasted implements of Art,
And all thy well-cramm'd magazines of Health ?

BLAIR:

profession. It is said, that one of them was sent for to attend one of the kings of Scotland; and that the people of the country flocked to him for advice respecting their health during his absence, when he gave to them this short rule: *Bbi gu sugah, geanmni, mochrach*, which signifies, be cheerful, temperate, and early risers. It must be owned, that the whole college of physicians could not have devised a better rule. This family had a large folio manuscript in Gaelic, on medical subjects, which was left with a woman, the heiress of the Beatons, and has been seen by some who are now living, but it cannot at present be heard of, and is probably lost, as the heirs of this woman are quite illiterate.*

THE churches in this island have been built chiefly of grit, and a species of red granite of the Egyptian kind, with very large grains, which has been brought from the isle of Nuns.

WE had now examined the principal ruins of this island, and though they may be inferior in magnitude and grandeur to many that are to be met with, yet, when we consider the situation of the island, the time when the buildings were erected, as well as the disadvantages under which they have been undertaken, they may be looked upon as the greatest curiosities of the kind in the British empire, especially, when we connect with them the circumstances which have been already mentioned,

* Statistical Account of Kilfinichen and Kilviceuen.

viz. the flourishing state of learning, at the time when the rest of Europe and of the world was wrapt in the dark cloud of ignorance and barbarism.

A LITTLE above the cathedral was a pond, which is now nearly filled up with vegetable matter; through the middle of it is a causeway. This pond was once within the abbey garden. We crossed this causeway, and ascended an eminence called Dun-y, the highest hill in the island, from which, in a clear day, is a fine view of the neighbouring islands; viz. Oransay, Tirce, Col, Staffa, Dutchman's Cap, &c.

HAVING gratified our eyes with this sight, we returned to breakfast. As we had been promised tea and eggs, we invited our virtuoso to share our repast, but to our mortification found that they had only two tea-cups and one tea-spoon, which was a wooden one, but being armed with good appetites, we managed, notwithstanding these difficulties, to make a tolerable meal.

AFTER breakfast, Mr. Watts returned to take sketches of the ruins, whilst I accompanied our guide over those parts of the island which we had not yet seen. We passed a quarry of fine white marble, which was discovered by Mr. Raspe, and wrought for some time, but it was almost impossible to procure large blocks of it, and when they were procured, it was very difficult to convey them from the spot to a boat; on these accounts the work has been given up, though if it was properly encouraged

by the noble proprietor, I think it might be carried on with advantage.

FROM this quarry we proceeded to the most westerly part of the island, where is a small bay, called Porta-chunich, or Portacurrach: it was here that Columba first landed in a currach, or wicker boat covered with hides, such as were in use at that time, accompanied by twelve of his friends and followers. Here is an artificial mound in the form of a boat, with the keel up, which is said to represent the size and shape of Columba's currach; this mound is near fifty feet in length.

IN this bay are immense numbers of beautiful pebbles, chiefly serpentine stone, jasper, granite, marble, lapis nephriticus, nephritic asbestos, violet coloured quartz, and porphyry. These pebbles are rounded, and finely polished by the tide, which rolls immense quantities of them backwards and forwards, with a noise like thunder.

THE flat ground near this place, which has been evidently left by the sea embanking itself, is almost covered with conical heaps of these pebbles of considerable magnitude; these it is said were the penances of the monks, who were to raise heaps of a magnitude proportioned to their crimes. If we may judge by the size of some of them, it is no breach of charity, as Mr. Penant observes, to think that there were among these holy men enormous sinners.

W_e returned along the north side of the island, with a view of collecting some plants that grow near the shore; on our right we ascended a small hill, called *Croc nar-aimgeal*, or the hill of angels, from a tradition that Columba had a conference with these celestial beings on this hill soon after his arrival. On the top of the hill is a small circle of stones, evidently druidical. Bishop Pococke informed Mr. Pennant, that the natives were accustomed to bring their horses to this circle at the feast of St. Michael, and to course round it; this usage he thinks originated from the custom of blessing the horses, in the days of superstition, but in the latter times the horses were still assembled, though the reason is forgotten.*

To the naturalist, this island is almost as interesting as to the antiquarian. The greatest part of the island consists of limestone; in some places it appears in the form of a very fine white marble, in others dove coloured; besides the different pebbles mentioned in *Porta-currach*, some large blocks of jasper are found. Though *Icolmkill* is a secondary island, none of the primitive rocks being found in it, except in loose masses, yet the neighbouring small island, separated from *Icolmkill* by a very narrow sound, consists almost entirely of a coarse grained red granite, resembling the Egyptian; with this granite, as has been observed, part of the sacred edifices have been constructed, as well as the huts of the present inhabitants. This island is

* Pennant's Tour.

called the Isle of Nuns, because the nuns resided here before Columba allowed them to settle in I.

IN the Bay of Martyrs is found hornblende, and in different parts of the island green and red jasper, with some specimens of zeolite. We have a curious specimen of zeolite investing limestone, in the museum of Anderson's Institution, which came from this island. The zeolite is in the form of the wax of a honeycomb, having the cells filled with limestone.

IN the botanical kingdom is found the *Pulmonaria maritima*, or sea bugloss, a beautiful plant, the blossoms of which are pink before they expand, but immediately change to a fine blue. The *Eryngium maritimum*, or sea holly; these two plants grow plentifully on the north shore of the island, between Porta-currach and the hill of angels. The *Cotyledon umbilicus*, or navel-wort, grows on almost every part of the ruins, both of the nunnery and cathedral. The *Menyanthes trifoliatum*, or marsh trefoil, one of the most beautiful of our native flowers, and distinguished by its woolly petals, grows in great plenty in the pond above the cathedral. A considerable part of the skirts of Dun-y is covered with the *Anagallis tenella*, or purple-flowered money-wort. The *Juniperus communis*, or juniper tree, is common on most of the hills, though of a very dwarfish size. The *Salix Lapponum*, or Lapland willow, a very scarce shrub, grows not far from the marble quarry.

THE number of inhabitants in the island at this time was 336, so that they must have increased greatly since the time when Mr Pennant visited it, who states them at 150, though more persons have left the island than have come to reside in it from other parts: but it seems a very healthy place, notwithstanding the poverty of the inhabitants. The women are very prolific.

THE male inhabitants are all fishermen, and most of them kelp-makers. They still retain some opinions handed down by their ancestors, perhaps from the times of the Druids. In particular, they believe that the spirit of the last person that was buried, watches round the church-yard till another is interred, to whom he delivers his charge.

THERE is a person in the island of the name of Innis, who pretends to cure scrofula by touching. He is a seventh son, and touches or rubs the sore with his hand two successive Sundays and Thursdays. He asks no fee, and it is believed that if he did there would be no cure. He is often sent for out of the island, and though he demands nothing, the patients or their friends generally make him presents. He is perfectly illiterate, and says he does not know how the cure is effected, but that God is pleased to work it in consequence of his touch.

HERE are some persons who can repeat several of the Celtic poems of Ossian, and other bards. The schoolmaster told me,

he could repeat a very long one on the death of Oscar, which was taught him by his grandfather.

THE college, or monastery, was formerly possessed of a valuable library, which has been destroyed or lost. Boethius asserts, that Fergus II. who assisted *Alaric* the Goth, in the sacking of Rome, brought away, as part of the plunder, a chest of manuscripts, which he presented to the monastery of Icolmkill.* A small parcel of these books were, in the year 1525, brought to Aberdeen, and great pains were taken to unfold them, but through age and the tenderness of the parchment, little could be read; from what the learned were able to make out, the work appeared by the style to be an unpublished book of Sallust.†

MR. PENNANT observes, that the register and records of the island, all written on parchment, and probably other more antique and valuable remains, were destroyed by that worse than Gothic synod, which, at the Reformation, declared war against all science. At the Reformation, the M. MS. of I, which were saved, were in part carried to the Scotch colleges of Douay and Rome, at least the Chartularies, and such as were esteemed most valuable by the monks. It is said, that some of the manuscripts were carried to Inverary, and that one of the dukes of Montague found some of them in the shops of that town used as snuff-paper.‡

* Boethius, Lib. vii.

† Pennant's Tour.

‡ Stat. Account of Kilfinichen and Kilviceuen.

THIS island is the property of the duke of Argyle, and forms part of the parish of Ross, or Kilviceuen; the minister of the parish, who resides at Ross in Mull, performs divine service once a quarter in this island; and this is, I believe, all the religious instruction the inhabitants receive. Strange reverse, that divine service should only be performed four times a year in a place where it was formerly employed as many times a day.

THERE is a school established by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, and the salary, perquisites, &c. of the schoolmaster amount to about twenty pounds per annum.

THE island is divided into two districts, and the cattle in each district are herded by a common herd, which would seem a considerable advantage, as fewer persons are taken from the industrious to this lazy occupation. The inhabitants of this island cannot, however, be praised for their industry, being by no means fond of agriculture, which is owing to their being tenants at will, or having no leases of their farms. Where there is any arable ground, the farmers *run-rig*, as it is called; that is, one person ploughs one ridge, another a second, another a third, and each sows his proportion when he thinks proper; a method which is extremely unfavourable to agriculture. This mode of letting arable ground to several tenants, throws a great damp upon the efforts of industry, and prevents those improvements which would otherwise be introduced. When every one possesses his arable ground contiguous to the other parts of his farm, it is

made to produce more than double of what it did under the run-rig system.*

THIS island, from the nature of its soil, seems much more capable of improvement by cultivation, than any part of Mull; but this can never take place to any considerable extent, till the tenants have leases, and comfortable cottages, instead of the wretched hovels which they inhabit. All the huts in the island are grouped together in the form of an irregular village.

THERE is plenty of fine shell sand, mixed with a kind of blackish loam, on the shore: which would afford an excellent top dressing if the natives would use it; and were they encouraged by leases, they would undoubtedly convert the limestone of the island into lime. Oats, barley, and some flax are cultivated here, and potatoes grow remarkably well. Their method of sowing barley is singular: the seed is sown before the ground is ploughed, and they then plough the ground over it. This prevents the grain from being bared by high winds, which are often known to drift the sandy soil off it. This mode, which was undoubtedly introduced by necessity, answers very well. The potatoes are manured with sea ware, collected during the winter.

AFTER having examined whatever was worthy of attention in this island, and made considerable additions to my mineralo-

* Smith's Agricultural Survey, p. 73.

gical and botanical collection, we left the place about noon, with a fair wind but a very rough sea; and sailing between the islands of Ulva and Mull, we arrived at Torloisk in about four hours. We passed a little flat and verdant isle on the left, called Inch-Kenneth, where Dr. Johnson was hospitably entertained by Sir ALLAN MACLEAN and his daughters, who had then a house there, and enjoyed all the pleasures of elegant society in this sequestered spot. This animated and nervous writer observes, that romance does not often exhibit a scene which strikes the imagination more than this little isle in the depths of western obscurity, occupied not by a gross herdsman or amphibious fisherman, but by a gentleman and two ladies, of high birth, polished manners, and elegant conversation, who practised all the kindness of hospitality and refinement of courtesy. How forcibly we felt the justice of these observations, when we applied them to the worthy family of Torloisk!

INCH-KENNETH was once a seminary of monks, probably subordinate to Icolmkill; the ruins of a chapel still remain. In passing the sound of Mull, we saw on the steep banks of the island of Ulva several ranges of basaltic columns, resembling those of Staffa in colour, but inferior in size and regularity.

JULY 22d, being Sunday, we accompanied our worthy host to church, which was about a mile distant; the minister preached in Gaelic, but had afterwards the politeness to give us a discourse

in English. After the service we were highly gratified with the respect paid to our hospitable friend by his tenants and the neighbouring peasantry; they waited till he came out, when he took each by the hand, and inquired kindly after their families and affairs.

JULY 23d. The time was now come when we must leave this hospitable mansion; we had been here several days, and could have lingered as many more, but our time was limited, and there was no kind storm to prolong our stay: early in the morning we took leave of our friends, who would not suffer us to depart without breakfast.* Mr. Maclean sent his servant with us to Aros as a guide.

WE called on Mr. STEWART at Achadashenaig, near Aros, who politely pressed us to spend the day with him; but it was our wish to dine at Achnacraig, and reach Oban that evening, as the day was remarkably fine. After resting our horses we therefore proceeded; but when we arrived at Achnacraig, the ferry-boat was engaged to take a party to a considerable distance; we were therefore under the necessity of stopping till the next morning, nor did we reach Oban till one o'clock on the 24th. As we found ourselves a little out of sorts, we determined to spend the day in this port to refit, which gave me an oppor-

* Since this was written, I have learned that our worthy friend, who was then in a bad state of health, is dead.

tunity of packing up my minerals, and dispatching them to Glasgow. I likewise extended my notes, and Mr. Watts employed himself in retouching his sketches.

IN the evening we walked out to take a more accurate view of Oban and the neighbourhood, than we had time to do before. In the immediate vicinity of this village, are immense rocks of pudding-stone. There is a large mass of it near the inn, and it may be traced along the coast towards Dunstaffnage for some miles. These rocks, which are extremely curious, are composed of different kinds of rounded pebbles, similar to those that generally form the beds of rivers, from the size of a hen's egg to that of a man's head. Some of these pebbles are quartose, others porphyric, granitic, schistous, and calcareous, and are cemented together very firmly by a black lava. This is certainly a curious circumstance, and can only, I think, be explained on the supposition of a submarine volcano. A quantity of lava has probably been thrown up under the bed of a river or the sea, which flowing among the pebbles, and becoming speedily cooled by the superincumbent water, has connected them firmly together. Some of these rocks assume very grotesque forms, and we may either suppose that they have been thrown up by lava, which has instantly condensed, and preserved the forms, or that the sea has left that part which it formerly covered, and thus exposed to view the convulsions, which have torn and agitated its bed. Though there are several specimens of lava and basaltes, as well as other volcanic mi-

nerals, in the neighbourhood of Oban, highly deserving the attention of the mineralogist, these pudding-stone rocks are undoubtedly the most curious.

THE bay of Oban is of a semicircular form, and from twelve to twenty-four fathoms deep; it is large enough to contain five hundred sail of merchantmen, and the anchorage is every where very good; but the traders and inhabitants in general, labour under great inconvenience for want of a proper quay to discharge their goods.

THERE is a very good school-house, which was built by the duke of Argyle and the inhabitants, who conjointly make up a salary of twenty pounds a year; the master also derives considerable emoluments from his scholars, of whom he has generally from forty to fifty; he likewise officiates as minister, the parish church being both too distant and too small. We met with this gentleman in our walk, and he very politely pointed out to us any thing worth notice.

IN the neighbourhood of Oban is a very remarkable cave in the face of a rock, narrow at the mouth, but enlarging afterwards, and extending to an unknown distance. A collection of human bones still remain in it. The account given of this collection to the minister of the parish, by an old person living in the neighbourhood, is the following:

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Dandy Castle?

ABOUT 100 years ago, a relation of this person having taken some umbrage at his grandfather, left his house for the purpose of revenge. He went to Ireland, and some years afterwards returned with a banditti of miscreants, with whom he had conspired to set fire to the village near Oban, in which his grandfather dwelt. On the appearance of the vessel, which brought them before Oban, the inhabitants received intelligence of their intentions, and likewise of the crew being infected with the plague; on which they collected a superior force, watched their landing, took them prisoners, and shut them up in the cave, where, by the humanity of the young man's grandfather, they were (though closely guarded) fed for some time, till they all died of the disease which they brought with them. A man, who died lately, once visited this cave in his younger years, in hopes of finding a treasure in it; but found only a gold-headed cane, and a large silver broach. These, however, he afterwards returned, being haunted, as he believed, by spectres till he had done so.*

ALONG the bay of Oban is a very pleasant walk, which leads to Dunolly Castle, about a mile distant. The first view of this ancient fortress is very striking, it stands on the top of a bold basaltic rock: the fore-ground of the picture consists of some singularly shaped rocks of pudding-stone.

* Stat. Account of Kilmore and Kilbride.

Banks.* These circumstances, I think, tend strongly to prove that this hill is an extinct volcano.†

At the distance of four miles from Connel, we crossed Loch-Creran, at Shean ferry, and soon entered the extensive plantations of Airds. The grounds, which are naturally romantic, have been ornamented with taste, and the roads are embowered with shade. We had a good view of the house, which is the property of Mr. Campbell of Airds, and is very pleasantly situated.

We were now travelling on the banks of that great arm of the sea, called Loch-Linnhe; on a small island in one of the branches of this loch, stand the ruins of Castle Stalkir, which appears to have been formerly a place of considerable strength: the most remarkable circumstance that attracted our notice was, its being nearly as large as the island on which it stands. The view from this part of the road, which is very fine, comprehends the castle and some islands, a part of Loch-Linnhe, with some picturesque mountains in the back ground. This castle is the property of Mr. Campbell of Airds.

* Pennant's *Voyage to the Hebrides*, p. 413.

† Though basalt and lava, as well as zeolite, which is generally considered as a volcanic mineral, are very common in North Britain, I believe that pumice-stone has seldom been found: but on a hill in this district, considerable quantities of it may be broken from the rocks of lava. I have some specimens from this place as fine as any I have seen from Vesuvius.



Drawn by W. H. W. W.

Engraved by W. Green.

Castle & Hallway

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RIDING round the head of this arm of the Loch, we came to the inn of Portnacraish, about five miles distant from Shean ferry; here we breakfasted, and Mr. Watts afterwards took a sketch of the castle and surrounding scenery. Between the house of Airds and Portnacraish, is a rock of white marble almost close to the road.

CONTINUING our road on the banks of Loch Linnhe, which are very romantic, the opposite side being bounded by the rugged hills of Morven, we passed Appin House, the property of the Marquis of Tweedale, but inhabited at present by a Mr. Stevenson. The situation is charming, commanding a fine view of the Loch, the island of Lismore, and the country of Fingal. The plantations are very extensive, and add much to the beauty of the country.

SOON after we passed Appin House, we saw several enormous blocks of quartz lying close to the shore: a few miles farther, Loch Leven opens to our view, with a great deal of grandeur and sublimity; it is a branch of Loch Linnhe, and is nearly surrounded by lofty mountains. After riding for some miles along the banks of this Loch, we reached Ballichellish, where is a ferry towards Fort William, which place we could easily have reached this evening, had we not wished to see the celebrated Glen-coe. We therefore determined to take our residence here for the night, and after dinner walked along the banks of the Loch.

THE situation of this lake is extremely beautiful, surrounded by lofty mountains on every side, rearing their rugged weather-beaten heads to the clouds: indeed, those who admire rude mountain scenery, will meet with it here in perfection. The roads from Oban to this place are remarkably good: the pebbles on the sides of the lochs we passed are chiefly granite, which constitutes the bulk of the neighbouring mountains.

NEAR the head of Loch Leven are some islands, by no means destitute of beauty. On one of these are the ruins of a church, which was dedicated to St. Mungo: the island is still called St. Mungo's Isle, and continues to be the burial place of the inhabitants on both sides of the Loch. I have several times had occasion to observe the situation of burial grounds on islands; indeed, this custom generally prevailed when such islands were within a convenient distance, and probably originated at a time when wolves were common in Britain. These ravenous animals have been frequently known to dig up the graves, in order to get at the dead bodies. In places where there was not this insular security to protect the remains of the dead, large heaps of stones were piled over the graves of persons of any consequence, which heaps have been called cairns.

ON the side of the road, near the head of the Loch, is a very fine quarry of blue slate. A considerable number of workmen are employed here, and great quantities of slates sent an-

nually to Leith, the Clyde, England, Ireland, and even to America. Vessels of any burden can load most commodiously in fine smooth sand, and so near the shore, that nothing more is necessary than to throw a few planks between the vessels and the shore, and carry the slates on board in wheel-barrows.

WE found the accommodations both for ourselves and our horses at the ferry-house of Ballichellish very uncomfortable, but being fatigued by the labour and heat of the preceding day, we slept tolerably, and early the next morning (July 26) set off for Glencoe. Our road was along the banks of Loch Leven, by the slate quarry above described: soon after we passed this quarry, we crossed the Coe,* a very rapid river, and entered the celebrated glen.

NOR were our expectations, though highly raised by the reports we had heard, in any degree disappointed. The steep and rugged mountains, on whose sides the blue mists hung, and which were worn into deep furrows by the rapid currents that tumble down them, together with the fertile valley, and the

* This stream is the *Cona of Ossia*.

Their sound was like a thousand streams that meet in Cona's vale, when after a stormy night they turn their dark eddies between the pale light of the morning.

FINGAL.

The gloomy ranks of Lochlin fell like the banks of the roaring Cona. IS.

If he overcomes, I rush in my strength like the roaring stream of Cona.

CARTHON.

river winding through it, render this glen awfully grand and picturesque in an uncommon degree. The accompanying print will give a tolerable idea of this stupendous scene, though it is next to impossible to convey on a small scrap of paper, any adequate notion of its grandeur. On the right is Malmor, a mountain celebrated by Ossian; on the left, Con Fion, or the hill of Fingal. The valley is closed by some other grotesque mountains, which were almost covered with mist, and which seem to shut the inhabitants of this romantic glen completely from the world.

THIS celebrated glen was the birth-place of Ossian, as would appear from several passages in the poems of that bard.* Any poetical genius who had spent the early days of his life in this glen, must have had the same or similar ideas, and would have painted them in the same manner that Ossian has done; for he would here see nothing but grand and simple imagery—the blue

* Sleeps the sweet voice of Cona in the midst of his rustling hall? Sleeps Ossian in his hall, and his friends without their fame?—Conlath and Cuthóna.

The chiefs gathered from all their hills, and heard the lovely sound. They praised the voice of Cona, the first among a thousand bards. But age is now on my tongue, and my soul has failed.—The songs of Selma.

So shall they search in vain for the voice of Cona, after it has failed in the field. The hunter shall come forth in the morning, and the voice of my harp shall not be heard. “Where is the son of car-borne Fingal?” The tear will be on his cheek. Then come thou, O Malvina, with all thy music, come; lay Ossian in the plain of Latha; let his tomb rise in the lovely field.—Berrathon.

Why bends the bard of Cona,” said Fingal, “over his secret stream? Is this a time for sorrow, father of low-laid Oscar?”—Temora.

mists hanging on the hills—the sun peeping through a cloud—the raging of the storm, or the fury of the torrent.

THIS glen was frequently the resort of Fingal and his party. It seems to me wonderful, that any person who has travelled in the highlands, should doubt the authenticity of the Celtic poetry, which has been given to the English reader by Macpherson: since in almost every glen are to be found persons who can repeat from tradition several of these, and other Celtic tales of the same date. I cannot pretend to offer any evidence stronger than what has been brought forward: I trust, however, that the following extract from a letter which I received from Dr. Mac Intire of Glenorchay, on this subject, will not be uninteresting to the reader:

“To the mass of evidence laid already before the public, by persons of the first respectability in the nation, I know of little that can be added. These tales we have been accustomed to hear recited from our earliest years, and they have made an indelible impression on my memory. In the close of the year 1783, and beginning of 1784, I was in London: for some time previous to that period, I had a correspondence with Mr. Macpherson, but not on subjects of Celtic literature. During two months that I continued in London, I was frequently with him at his own house, and elsewhere. We spoke occasionally about the poems, and the attempt made by Dr. Johnson to discredit them. I hinted, that though my own belief of their authen-

ticity was unalterably fixed, still my opinion ever was, that he had never found the poem of Fingal, in the full and perfect form in which he had published it; but that having got the substance, or greatest part of the interesting tale, he had from his knowledge of Celtic imagery and allusions, filled up the chasms in the translation. He replied, 'You are much mistaken in the matter—I had occasion to do less of that than you suppose—and at any time that you are at leisure, and wish to see the originals, tell me, and we will concert a day for going to my house on Putney-heath, where these papers lie, and you will then be satisfied.' This conversation passed in presence of Dr. Shaw, a Scots physician, to whom he introduced me.

" I FULLY intended to avail myself of this offer, but have to regret that, from various avocations, and leaving London sooner than I thought I could, I was prevented from a sight and perusal of the original of these poems.

" CALLING the day before I left London on the late General Mac Nab, a gentleman well versed in Celtic literature, and of unimpeached veracity and honour, who had lived long in habits of intimacy with Mr. Macpherson, I mentioned this circumstance to him, and my regret: he said he was sorry I had not seen the poems; that to him Mr. Macpherson had often recited parts of Fingal in the 'Gaelic, with various other tales, which brought to his remembrance what had given him so much gratification when a boy.

“THUS, my dear Sir, have I given you a diffuse, but a true detail of a circumstance, that can add little to the credibility of a fact, authenticated by men, whom no consideration could induce to avow a falsehood..

“THE highland society, who intend to publish the original of Fingal, have applied to me for an account of the preceding conversation with Mr. Macpherson, which I have hitherto been prevented from communicating: you are therefore at full liberty to make what use of it you please.

“AT the time when I was a student of theology, I was present at the delivery of a sermon, by a worthy but eccentric preacher, on the resurrection from the dead. He concluded his subject with words that I can never forget. ‘Thus have I endeavoured to set before you this great truth of God—and I trust that you believe it: but believe it who will, I believe it myself.’ So say I in all the candour of truth, as to the poems of Ossian.—Believe them who will, I believe them myself.

“MY son is anxious to procure you some unpublished Celtic tales: but the truth is, that Dr. Smith of Campbeltown, who is a native of this parish, and who has been indefatigable in his research for these tales, has picked up every thing of value of that kind in the country, and published them with translations. Indeed, the period is past, or almost past, when an investigation and search after these amusements of ‘the times of old’ would be of avail. Happily, our people are forming.

habits, and acquiring modes of industry and manners, that preclude the tale, and the song, and the harp."

THE house represented in the view, which is necessarily on a very small scale, otherwise no degree of proportion could have been preserved, is the property of the laird of Glencoe, but occupied by Mr. Macdonald, of Achtrichatain, with whom we breakfasted, and from whom we received attention and civility. After breakfast, we rode some miles up the glen, and passed the village of Achtrichatain, the property of the above-mentioned gentleman. Here the river expands to a small lake, and the scenery becomes more and more grand: the valley contracted, and rugged mountains closed us in on every side. Down these fall terrible torrents, which have worn in their red sides deep chasms, and almost cleft them asunder.* After a heavy rain the appearance of these torrents must be uncommonly grand.

THIS celebrated glen well deserves a visit from the traveller or the tourist, which may be easily done if he pursue our route; or should he go from Tyndrum to Fort William, the road will take him through Glencoe.

It were to be wished, that the historian of this glen could record nothing worse of it than the martial deeds of Fingal, and his heroes; but truth will oblige me to relate an occurrence in

* This seems to be noticed, and beautifully described by Ossian in his Fingal.

"Thus have I seen on Cona; (but Cona I behold no more) thus have I seen two dark hills removed from their place by the strength of the bursting stream. They turn from side to side, and their tall oaks meet one another on high."

history, the most barbarous that has happened in modern times, or was ever sanctioned by any regular government. I mean the massacre of Glencoe, of which the following is the most authentic account I could procure, either from writers, or persons on the spot.

THOUGH the act of settlement in favour of William, had passed both in England and Scotland, yet a number of the highland clans, attached to their late unfortunate monarch, and irritated by some of the proceedings of the new government, bowed with reluctance to the yoke. The Earl of Breadalbane, however, undertook to bring them over by distributing sums of money among their chiefs; and fifteen thousand pounds were remitted from England for that purpose. The clans being informed of this remittance, suspected that the Earl's design was to appropriate to himself the best part of the money; accordingly, when he began to sound them, they made such extravagant demands, that he found his scheme impracticable; he therefore refunded the money, resolving to be revenged on those who frustrated his intention. Among these was MACDONALD of Glencoe, against whom he is said to have entertained a private resentment, and to have watched with impatience an opportunity for his destruction.

It seems that a party of the Macdonalds, on some expedition, common even in these days, had plundered the lands of the Earl of Breadalbane, who now insisted on being indemnified for his

losses, from the other's share of the money which he was employed to distribute. The proud chief refused to comply with this, alledging that his plundering expedition had only been a retaliation for similar depredations committed on his property by the vassals of the Earl.

IN consequence of this, Breadalbane is said to have represented him at court, as an incorrigible rebel, who would never be obedient to the laws of his country, nor live peaceably under any sovereign. He observed, that he had paid no regard to the late proclamation, and proposed that the government should sacrifice him, with his family and dependants, to the quiet of the kingdom. This proclamation had been issued some time before by the king, offering an indemnity to all who had been in arms against him, if they would submit, and take the oaths of allegiance before the expiration of the year, but threatening with military execution all those who should hold out after the end of December. Macdonald, for a while refused to submit, alledging that he kept his opinions quietly to himself, without injury to any one; but as the day of grace was near expiring, the tender ties of affection began to be drawn more closely, and his fears for his wife, his children, and his dependants, overcame his indignation. On the very last day of the month, he repaired to Fort William, and requested that the oaths might be tendered to him by Colonel Hill, governor of that fortress. As this officer was not vested with the power of a civil magistrate, he refused to administer them; upon which, Macdonald immediately set

out for Inverary. Though the ground was covered with snow, and the weather intensely cold, he travelled with such diligence, that the term prescribed by the proclamation was but one day elapsed when he reached the place, and applied to Sir JOHN CAMPBELL, Sheriff of the county, who, on consideration of his disappointment at Fort William, was prevailed on to administer the oaths to him and his adherents. They then returned quietly to Glencoe, confident of being protected by a government to which they had so solemnly submitted.

IN consequence, however, of Breadalbane's representations, the king, whose chief virtue, Smollet observes, was not humanity, and who indeed might not perhaps have heard of Macdonald's submission, signed an order for putting near two hundred people to death, with as little ceremony, as if it had been an order to apprehend a smuggler.

THE warrant being transmitted to the master of Stair, secretary of state for Scotland, this minister sent directions to Livingstone, the commander in chief, to put the inhabitants of Glencoe to the sword; he had particular instructions to take no prisoners, that the scene might be rendered as terrible as possible, and serve as an example to the refractory clans.

EARLY in the month of February, 1691, Captain CAMPBELL of Glenlyon, by virtue of an order from Major DUNCANSON, marched into the valley of Glencoe, with a company of soldiers,

on pretence of levying the arrears of the land-tax and hearth money; and when Macdonald inquired into their intention, he answered it was friendly, and promised, *upon his honour*, that neither he nor his people should sustain the least injury.

IN consequence of this declaration, he and his men were received with most cordial hospitality, and were entertained in the most friendly manner, for the space of fifteen days. At length the fatal period approached. Macdonald and Campbell had spent the day together, and the evening was spent by Campbell and some of his officers, at cards, with the laird of Glencoe and his wife, as well as Macdonald of Achtrichatain, and some other neighbouring gentlemen: they parted early, with mutual promises of the warmest affection.

YOUNG Macdonald, however, perceiving the guards doubled, as well as something mysterious in the conduct of the troops, began to suspect some treachery, and communicated his suspicions to his father, who had so much confidence in the honour of Campbell, that he treated his suspicions with jocularly. The youth, at the close of day, drew his brother aside, and took him privately among the soldiers to make observations. Approaching a guard, under cover of the night, they overheard a sentinel tell his fellow his dislike to the business; he would have had no objection, he said, to have fought the Macdolors of the Glen fairly in the field, but that he detested murdering them in cold blood: "However," says he, "our officers are answerable

for the treachery." Upon hearing this conversation, the two terrified young men hastened back to their father's house, to warn him of the danger:—but the bloody business was begun. As they approached, they heard the report of fire arms, and the shrieks of despair, and being themselves destitute of arms, secured their own lives by flight.

THE savage ministers of vengeance entered the old man's chamber; he started up, and was instantly shot through the head. He fell down dead in the arms of his astonished wife, who died the next day, distracted by the horror of her husband's fate. The laird of Achtrichatain, an ancestor of the gentleman with whom we breakfasted, who, as was before observed, was at that time the guest of Glencoe, shared the fate of his host, though he had submitted to government three months before, and had the king's protection in his pocket. His descendant informed us, that a faithful follower of the name of Kennedy, seeing the fatal musket levelled, and the deadly aim taken, threw himself between the assassin and his chief, in hopes of saving the life of his master at the expence of his own, but the ball killed both. The houses of the tenants and dependants were surrounded, and every man butchered who was found. Thirty-eight persons were thus surprised in their beds, and hurried into eternity before they had time to implore the divine mercy. The design was to murder all the males under seventy that lived in the valley, the number of whom amounted to about two hundred; but some of the de-

tachments fortunately did not arrive in time enough to secure the passes; so that about one hundred and sixty made their escape.

CAMPBELL having perpetrated this brutal massacre, ordered all the houses to be burned, and made a prey of the cattle and effects that were found in the valley. Macdonald's house was exactly in the situation of that represented in the view of Glencoe: to the right of it is a barn, then a dwelling house, in which several were shot, and which escaped the flames of the plunderers.

THE women and children were indeed spared the immediate stroke of death, as if to render their fate more cruel; for such of them as had neither died of the fright, nor been butchered by mistake, were turned out naked, at the dead of night, a keen freezing night, into a waste covered with snow, at the distance of six long miles from any inhabited place.

THE morning dawned, and discovered the horrid deed in all its guilt. Thirty-eight slaughtered bodies were drawn out, and the women were in general found either starved to death, or expiring, with their children under rocks and hedges.

THIS horrid business was never sufficiently examined. The king endeavoured to throw the odium from himself, by saying that it was an oversight, committed in the hurry of subscribing

his royal mandates. But it may be asked, if a mandate from the throne was of so little consequence as to be signed without consideration; or whether ignorance or hurry, in such a case, can be admitted as an excuse? Various circumstances, however, and particularly the lenity shown to all concerned in this business, rendered this apology certainly defective. Whether his majesty's conscience ever admonished him relative to this business, or by what casuistry he might undertake to appease this monitor, does not appear; but the imputation of guilt stuck fast to his character, and his not punishing the perpetrators of the murder with due rigour, was, as Bishop BURNET himself allows, the greatest blot in his whole reign.

WITH respect to the inferior agents, they pretended, as has been already observed, to be nothing but mere machines, since, when conversing deliberately on the nature of the business, they soothed their consciences with the idea, that their officers were to be answerable for the treachery. The officers, on their part, to make the most favourable supposition, perhaps considered themselves also as reduced to machines by the king's authority: but, supposing that they did console themselves with this idea, why not fall on the Macdonalds at first? why feast upon their bounty and pledge their honour that no harm should happen, while it was their intention to murder them?

WITH minds full of gloomy ideas, suggested by reflecting on this horrid transaction, and hearing the circumstances confirmed.

by those so nearly interested, we left the glen, and returned to the ferry-house at Ballichellish, and after resting our horses, and taking some refreshment, we crossed the loch, and proceeded along the banks of another arm, to Fort William, which is distant about fourteen miles from the ferry. The road is extremely good, and, being carried very near the loch, is pleasant. About half way, or rather more, on the opposite side of the water, we saw Inverscandle house, the present residence of MACDONALD of Glencoe. A few miles farther, the loch turns northward, forming nearly a right angle with its former direction; it here takes the name of Loch-Eil: near the head of it is a good house, which is the occasional residence of the laird of Lochiel, the chief of the formerly powerful clan of Camerons.

THE greatest part of this country, as well as many other parts of the highlands, has been converted into sheep farms, which has nearly depopulated them; the inhabitants having been obliged to emigrate to other countries; where, by engaging in manufactures, or a sea-faring life, they might be able to support their young families. It was pleasantly observed, by a gentleman from Inverness, who accompanied us on this part of our road, that the warriors of the mountains had been metamorphosed into sheep. That the mountains of this country are better adapted for sheep than black cattle, will not, I think, admit of a doubt. Under the sheep system they make a much better return, both to the tenant and the landlord; and furnish, in the wool of the sheep, a large fund for manufacture and commerce; but all

these advantages have, in my opinion, been more than counter-balanced by the effect which this system has produced on the population of the country. By joining together two, three, or more farms, and converting them into a sheep walk, twelve or sixteen tenants, with their families, are thrown out of their usual line of employment, the greatest number of whom are obliged to emigrate. When one man occupies the space which would be occupied by these, his private gains will by no means compensate for the public loss. To banish that hardy race by which our battles have been fought, and our fleets manned, must prove a national loss; it must likewise be a serious misfortune to the district to have its numbers greatly diminished; as it is certain that the riches of any country must be proportioned to the number of its people, if their industry be properly directed.

THE proprietor may perhaps think that all this is nothing to him, provided one man can give him a higher rent than ten or twenty. He can collect his rent with greater ease, and makes no account of the pleasure of communicating the means of subsistence and happiness to a number of his fellow-creatures; neither does he remember the assistance which their forefathers have given to his, in obtaining and defending those possessions from which they are now expelled. In making these observations, I speak of land proprietors in general; there are some exceptions which do honour to their country. Dr. Smith, to whom I am indebted for several observations on sheep walks, mentions the

following noble reply of a highland chieftain, who was advised to remove his people, and put his land under sheep. "Their forefathers," said he, "got and secured my estate by their blood and their lives, and I think they have a natural claim to a share of it."*

BUT a circumstance, in which the self-interest of the proprietor seems more nearly concerned, ought to be taken into the account; I mean the cultivation of his lands, to which a total stop is put by the present system, and, what is worse than this, the ground that has been rescued from wildness by the industry and labour of ages, will become a wilderness again. By means of sheep, rents may immediately be raised more rapidly, but will not admit of much farther progress: by cultivation they are advanced more slowly; but by a gradual progress will arrive at a much greater height. It ought likewise to be considered, that no country can become rich by pasturage alone. Pasturage must be conjoined with agriculture, and both of them with manufactures and commerce, before any great degree of prosperity can be attained. It would therefore be the interest of land proprietors to endeavour to unite all these advantages in one system, by encouraging small tenants as far as the nature of the land will allow, by which their estates would be not only improving in cultivation, and their rents progressively rising, but the country flourishing.

* Smith's Agricultural Survey of Argyleshire.

DR. SMITH mentions the following fact, which will strongly illustrate and corroborate these observations. A few years ago, a large estate in Argyleshire was converted into sheep walks, and let at an advanced rent to a few storemasters. From twenty-five to thirty of the former tenants, who could not dispose of themselves otherwise, were allowed one large farm among them all, and the rent of it advanced in the same proportion with those around it. The arable part of the farm, with as much more of it as was capable of cultivation, was divided into as many shares as there were families, and each set down upon his own lot. Here they fell to work with plough, spade, and mattock; occasionally uniting their forces to what they could not singly perform; at the same time, they joined their little money and credit to put a common stock of sheep upon the mountain, and employed a common shepherd to take care of them: their flock prospered, their fields produced abundantly, and were yearly becoming larger, by adding to the cultivated part a portion of what had formerly been waste. The men not only raised a sufficiency of food to serve their families, but some of them had also a surplus to spare; while their wives spun a considerable part of the wool produced by the sheep, and sold the yarn in the market. In short, they so improved the ground and their own circumstances together, that it was thought they could do well enough without the mountain; of which they were accordingly deprived, and their hopes of thriving vanished. The experiment however was fairly tried; and from 100 to 150 souls paid their rent, and derived their living from one farm, and probably with-

out any sensible diminution of the cattle which it was capable of maintaining, if no part of it had been tilled. Had the wisest politicians set themselves to contrive what plan would be most for the general interest of the country, perhaps they could not have devised a better than this, in which every part of the soil was applied to its proper use, and in which tillage, pasturage, manufacture, and commerce, were all united, so as to give each other their mutual aid. By such management as this, the hills might be covered with sheep, the plains with corn, the lands improved, and the people numerous and happy.*

FROM the time of introducing sheep walks, a very great change is said to have been observed, even in the dispositions of the people: till then, they showed in general little wish to emigrate. Round every fire, the entertainment of the evening was rehearsing tales of "the days of the years that are gone;" the actions of great men, and the warlike feats of their ancestors. By such conversation, the young mind, fired with the spirit of great examples, eagerly panted after an opportunity of being signalized, by surmounting difficulties, and by encountering dangers. Attachment to the chief, and jealousy of his honour, were reckoned primary virtues: these were inculcated at an early period of life, were strengthened by habit, and spread by example. The country is now thinned of inhabitants; the people have been forced to leave their native hills, dear to them from having been the residence of their ancestors from time immemorial; and

* Smith's Agricultural Survey of Argyleshire.

from having been the scenes of the happiest part of their life, when every thing could please. The generous spirit of the highlander is in a great measure extinct. Where in ten or fifteen families a hardy race was reared, ever ready to repel an enemy, and gain glory to their country, an opulent tacksman, with a solitary herd, occupy the lands.

One only master grasps the whole domain,
And half a tillage stints the smiling plain.*

WHILE reflecting on these circumstances, we arrived at Fort William, which is situated at the eastern extremity of the loch, where it begins to turn northwards, to form Loch Iel. The town, which was formerly called Maryburgh, is a small inconsiderable place: there are some few tolerable houses, but the greater number seem very poor habitations. The number of inhabitants is about 500, most of whom have scarcely any employment except in the herring fishery, which is here inconsiderable. This place seems well situated for a woollen manufactory, which, if properly established, would be of great use to the country; would enhance the value of estates, and give employment to those who are driven from their farms by the introduction of sheep. Fort William is a great market for wool; many of the English manufacturers come hither to purchase this commodity, which they send immediately by sea to Liverpool and other ports. The communication from hence to the sea by Loch-

* Goldsmith.

Linnhe is very good: ships of any size can come up to Fort William. Here is likewise plenty of peat for fuel, and coals might be imported sufficiently cheap. Fish of various kinds are very plentiful, particularly herrings, haddocks, whittings, salmon, &c. These circumstances are all favourable to the establishment of a manufactory of coarse woollens: it only seems to want a beginning. Many of the highland gentlemen begin to look with less contempt on manufactures than formerly; and several have sent their sons to Glasgow to be instructed in the muslin branch. Would it not be worth the attention of some of the proprietors in the neighbourhood of Fort William to send their sons to learn the woollen manufacture in Yorkshire, with a view to an establishment here?

THE fort is of a triangular form, with two bastions; it has fifteen twelve-pounders, some mortars, and a considerable armoury. It was built during the usurpation of Cromwell, by the advice and direction of General Monk,* and occupied much

* During the usurpation of Cromwell, many of the highland chiefs continued faithfully attached to the royal cause; these, however, one after another, made their peace with General Monk, excepting Sir Ewin Cameron of Lochiel, whom no intreaties could induce to abandon the cause of his king. Monk left no method unattempted to bribe him into submission, and held out proposals so very flattering, that he was importuned by many of his friends to accept of them; but he despised them all, and scorned to submit. Monk finding all his attempts ineffectual, resolved to plant this garrison, in order to keep the chief and his dependants in awe. Sir Ewin being informed of this design, thought the best plan would be to attack the enemy on their march from Inverness, as he imagined they would come from thence to erect the fort; but they arrived suddenly by sea, and disconcerted all his mea-

more ground at that time than it does at present, containing no fewer than 2,000 effective troops. Colonel Braym was the

sures. They brought with them such plenty of materials, and were in the vicinity of so much wood, that within one day after their landing the fort was erected, and the troops secured from danger.

The laird of Lochiel saw all their motions from a neighbouring eminence, and finding it impracticable to attack them with any probability of success, retired to a wood on the north side of Lochiel, called Achdalew, from whence he had a good view of his enemy at Inverlochy. He dismissed his followers, to remove their cattle farther from the enemy, and to furnish themselves with provisions, excepting thirty-eight choice men whom he kept as a guard. He had also spies about the garrison, who informed him of all their transactions. Five days after their arrival at Inverlochy, the governor dispatched 300 of his men in two vessels, which were to sail northward, and anchor on each side of the shore near Achdalew. Lochiel being informed that their design was to cut down his wood, and carry away his cattle, was determined to make them pay dear for every tree and hide; favoured by the woods, he came pretty close to the shore, where he saw their motions so distinctly, that he counted them as they came out of the ship, and found that the armed men exceeded 140, besides a number of workmen with axes and other instruments.

Having fully satisfied himself in this respect, he returned to his friends and called a council of war. The younger part of them were keen for attacking, but the older and more experienced, remonstrated against it, as a very rash and hazardous enterprise. Lochiel then asked two of the party, who had served with him in several sharp actions, if ever they saw him engage on terms so disadvantageous? They declared they never did. Animated by the ardour of youth, for he was then very young, he insisted in a short, but spirited, speech, that if they had any regard for their king, their chief, or their own honour, they would attack the English: "For," says he, "if every one kills his man, which I hope you will, I will answer for the rest." Upon this they cheerfully consented, but requested that he and his young brother, Allan, would stand at a distance from the danger. Lochiel could not hear with any patience this proposal with regard to himself, but commanded his brother, who was equally anxious to share the danger, to be bound to a tree, leaving a little boy to attend him; but he soon prevailed on the boy, by threats and entreaties, to disengage him, and ran to the conflict.

The Camerons being somewhat more than thirty in number, armed partly with muskets, and partly with bows, kept their pieces and arrows till their very

first governor, and the fort was then distinguished by the name of the "Garrison of Inverlochy." In the time of King William,

muzzles and points almost touched the breasts of their enemies: the very first fire killed about thirty: they immediately took their broad swords, and laid about with incredible fury. The English defended themselves with their muskets and bayonets with great bravery, but to little purpose. The combat was long and obstinate; at last the English gave way, and retreated towards the ship, with their faces towards the enemy, fighting with astonishing resolution. Lochiel, to prevent their flight; ordered two or three of his men to run before, and from behind a bush to make a noise, as if there was another party of highlanders stationed to intercept their retreat. This took so effectually, that they stopped, and, animated by rage, madness, and despair, renewed their fight with greater fury than ever, and wanted nothing but proper arms to make Lochiel repent of his stratagem. They were at last, however, forced to give way, and betake themselves to their heels; the Camerons pursued them chin-deep in the sea. Of the English, 138 were found dead, while Lochiel only lost five men.

In this engagement, Lochiel himself had several wonderful escapes. In the retreat of the English, one of the strongest and bravest of the officers retired behind a bush, where he observed Lochiel pursuing alone, and darting upon him, thought himself sure of his prey. They met with equal fury; the combat was long doubtful. The English officer had by far the advantage in strength and size, but Lochiel exceeded him in nimbleness and activity, and forced the sword out of his hand; upon which his antagonist flew upon him like a tiger; they closed, and wrestled, till both fell on the ground in each other's arms. The English officer got above Lochiel, and pressed him hard; but stretching forth his neck, and attempting to disengage himself, Lochiel, who by this time had his hands at liberty, with his left hand seized him by the collar, and jumping at his extended throat, bit it with his teeth quite through, bringing away his mouthful, which he often afterwards said was *the sweetest bite he ever had in his life*. Immediately after the encounter, when continuing the pursuit, he found his men chin deep in the sea; he quickly followed them, and observing a man on the deck aiming his piece at him, plunged into the sea, and escaped so narrowly, that the hair on the back part of his head was cut, and a little of the skin taken off. Soon afterwards a similar attempt was made to shoot him, when his foster brother threw himself before him, and received the shot in his breast, preferring the life of his chief to his own.—Appendix to Pennant's Tour.

In this way did the bold and resolute chief harass the new garrison in his neighbourhood, making them often pay dear for their depredations on his property, till at

it was rebuilt on a less scale, with stone and lime instead of earth. In the year 1746, it stood a siege of five weeks, which commenced on the 24th of February, and was raised on the 3d of April following, with the loss of only six men killed, and twenty-four wounded. It is, however, by no means a place of strength, and for several years past has been garrisoned only by a few invalids. Some time ago, about a fourth part of the wall was undermined, and swept away by the river Nevis, which runs by it. It has ever since been going to ruin, and there seems little probability of its being repaired. Captain COCHRANE is the commanding officer, to whom I had a letter of introduction, but he was so much indisposed that we could not see him.

SEVERAL of the inhabitants of the town had been attending the remains of a lady to the place of interment, a few miles distant, and we saw many of them return more than half seas over. We found our inn wretched beyond any thing we had met with, they had neither corn nor hay; the attendance was bad, and the beds abominable. Indeed, I found mine so uncomfortable, that I was glad to rise at three o'clock in the morning. I took a walk to the burial ground, a little out of the town, and meditated among the tombs for near an hour. I then returned, and roused my companion. I am ashamed to say that this inn was kept by an Englishman.

last, finding his country impoverished, and his people almost ruined, he listened to the repeated solicitations which were made to him, and submitted on terms of his own dictating. Monk immediately wrote him a letter of thanks, which was dated at Dalkeith, the 5th of June, 1655.

JULY 27. Immediately after breakfast we left Fort William, taking the road to Fort Augustus, and travelling along the banks of the Lochy, a considerable river, which runs out of a lake of the same name. About a mile from the fort, and close to the Lochy on our left, we passed the ruins of Inverlochy castle, which has once been a place of considerable strength and magnitude. It is a quadrangular building, with round towers at the angles, like the castle at Inverary, and is nearly 100 feet every way within the walls, which are nine feet in thickness; and the whole building, including the towers, covers above an acre and a half of ground. At the gate between the south and east towers, are the remains of the draw-bridge. Three of the towers have been provided with sally-ports, very well contrived, and close to the arrow holes which flanked them. To the lowest story of each tower is a door, leading to it from the inner area of the castle, and a winding stair up to the second story through the middle of the wall. Every tower is built with loop-holes on each side, so contrived as to flank and defend the whole curtain of the rampart as far as the next tower. These loop or arrow holes are well contrived to allow the archers a free aim, and defend them at the same time from any weapons without. The western tower is called *Cumming's Tower*. It is said that there was formerly a thriving town called Inverlochy, adjacent to this castle, which some of the old historians describe as the emporium of the west of Scotland; but of this there are no other vestiges than some paved ways, which are said to have been streets.

FROM the name of the western tower, and other circumstances, it seems probable that this castle was occupied by the Cummings in the time of Edward I. of England, when this clan was at its zenith of power; and, previous to that period, by the Thanes of Lochaber, particularly by Bancho, predecessor of the race of Stewart. A little below the castle there is a pleasant walk, which still retains the name of Bancho's walk.* There is a tradition that this castle was once a royal residence, and that the famous league between Charles the Great of France and Achaius king of Scots, was signed here on the part of the Scotch monarch about the end of the eighth century.

BUT I fear the reader will think that too much time has been already taken up in describing this monument of human industry, which a few ages will probably obliterate, while there is in the immediate neighbourhood a work of nature so stupendous, as to cause this puny effort of man to dwindle into nothing. Opposite to the castle on the right, Benevis, the highest hill in Britain,† elevates his rugged front far above the neighbouring mountains, his summit and broken sides being covered with eternal snows.

As our time did not permit us to ascend this mountain, I shall subjoin the account given of it by Mr. FRASER, minister of Kilmalie, in his Statistical Report of that parish.

* See the Statistical Account of the Parishes of Kilmalie and Kilmanivaig.

† The perpendicular height of this mountains is 4,370 feet.

“ THIS hill is easily ascended by a ridge towards the west, about a quarter of a mile up the river Nevis, from the house where the proprietor resides. There is good pasture for sheep here, as well as on the surrounding hills, for a great way up. The view is entirely confined within Glenevis, till you have ascended about 500 yards perpendicular. Indeed, the valley, though confined, presents an agreeable prospect. The vista is beautified by a diversity of bushes, shrubs, and birch-woods, the habitations of the roe, besides many little verdant spots; a neat rural mansion, encircled by a flourishing plantation; a river at the bottom of the vale, which, after having been broken by a heap of mis-shapen stones, glides away in a clear stream; and, wandering through woods, vales, and rocks, loses itself in the sea at Fort William. To heighten the pleasure of this charming view, the sea and shores present themselves. This is such a prospect as must expand the heart, and delight the spectator attached to the charms of nature and rural scenes; and recal to mind the days of old, when princes are said to have tended their herds amidst the beauties of Arcadia.

“ UPON ascending higher, the prospect opens to the south-west, and you behold the Straits of Corran, the islands of Shuna and Lismore; the south-east part of Mull, together with the islands of Sucle and Kerrera, on the opposite coast of Argyle. At this altitude two elevated hills make their appearance over these isles, which, by their shape, declare themselves to be the *Paps of Jura*. Turning to the west, and inclining a

little towards the north, you see the small isles, particularly Rum and Canna, and the sound that separates them from Skye; beyond all these the Cullin hills, which form the west part of Skye itself. Here the prospect to the east is obstructed by the upper part of the mountain; but still every part of Lochiel can be easily observed, over which the whole horizon is surprizingly equal. One uninterrupted range of hills, which rise one behind another, presents no particular object worth distinguishing.

“ FROM the altitude of 600 or 700 yards upward, there is no vegetation at all, but merely rocks and stony parts, without even the mixture of earth. These parts are called *Scarnachs*. They are quite flat, and may be walked over without any detriment: upon entering them, some excellent springs of water are to be found. Here one is deceived with the appearance of a high part, which seems to be the top of the hill: the deception returns, and is repeated twice or thrice before you reach the summit, which is rather flat, and bears some resemblance to the segment of an arch held in a horizontal position; the left side appears to be the highest. Hence you walk with ease over the flat weather-beaten stones that lie close to each other, with a gentle declivity, and form an easy pavement to the foot. You now come all at once to the brink of a precipice on the north-east side of the mountain, which is almost perpendicular, and certainly not less than 400 or 500 yards deep, perhaps more, as it appears to exceed the third part of the whole height of the hill. A stranger is astonished at the sight of this

dreadful rock, which has a quantity of snow lodged in its bosom through the whole year. The sound of a stone thrown over the cliff to the bottom, cannot be heard when it falls, so that the height of the precipice cannot be ascertained by that easy experiment.

“LOOKING to the east, Loch Laggan appears, and to the south-east, Loch Rannoch in Perthshire: but Loch Tay being covered by the land cannot be seen, nor Loch Erracht. If you have a good map in company, lay it here in a horizontal position, and placing your eye over that part of it where Benevis is delineated, turn it till the natural position of Loch Rannoch coincides with its image on the map, and you will then have before your eye a true representation of the objects in view.

“IN this manner you will be able to discover the names of those high mountains which rise above the rest; viz. Cruachan in Glenorchay; Shichallion, Ben-more, and Ben lawers in Perthshire; Bhillan in Glencoe; Ben-more in the island of Mull; Bennanis, and other hills in Ross-shire. The whole of the great glen of Scotland, from Fort George to the Sound of Mull, is at once in view, comprehending the fresh water lakes of Ness, Oich, and Lochy, and all the course of the two rivers, Ness and Lochy, from their source to the places where they enter the salt water, running in opposite directions, the one north-east and the other south-west. One sees at once across the island eastward toward the German sea, and westward to the Atlantic ocean.

“NATURE here appears on a majestic scale, and the vastness of the prospect engages one's whole attention. Particular objects are but few in number, but they are of no common dimensions.

“JUST over the opening of the Sound, at the south-west corner of Mull, Colonsay rises out of the sea like a shade of mist, at the distance of more than ninety miles. Shuna and Lismore appear like small spots of rich verdure, and though near thirty miles distant, seem quite under the spectator. The low parts of Jura cannot be discerned, nor any parts of Isla; far less the coast of Ireland, which some have pretended to see from the top of Benevis. Such, however, is the wide extent of view from the summit of this mountain, that it reaches 170 miles from the horizon of the sea, at the Murray Firth on the north-east, to the island of Colonsay on the south-west.

“THE hills on each side of the lakes and rivers mentioned above, opening like huge walls and ramparts, yield a curious variety of agreeable wild prospects; the vast windings whereof rather diversify the scene than obstruct the eye: the extremities of the hills declining gradually from their several summits, open into valleys, affording variegated views of woods, rivers, plains, and lakes. The torrents of water which here and there tumble down the precipices, and in many places break through the cracks and cliffs of the rocks, arrest the eye, and suspend the mind in awful astonishment. In a word, the number, the extent, and the variety of the several prospects, the irregular

wildness of the hills, of the rocks, and of the precipices, the noise of rivulets and of torrents breaking and foaming among the stones in such a diversity of shapes and colours, the shining smoothness of the seas and lakes, the rapidity and rumbling of the rivers falling from shelve to shelve, and forcing their streams through a multitude of obstructions, the serenity of the azure skies, and the splendour of the glorious sun riding in the brightness of his majesty, have something so charmingly wild and romantic, and so congenial to the contemplative mind, as surpasses all description, and presents a scene of which the most fervid imagination can scarcely form an idea.

“THE traveller who is so callous as to behold all this, and not feel the greatness and majesty of the ALMIGHTY ARCHITECT impressed upon his heart, must indeed be strangely void of sense, of taste, and of sentiment.

“FEW persons can perform a journey to the top of Benevis, and make proper observations going and returning, in less than seven hours; and still fewer, without feeling in their limbs the effects of the fatigue for a day or two afterwards.”

“VIEWING this majestic mountain at a humble distance, and continuing our ride along the banks of the Lochy, we came to a dreary moor, and crossed the Spean, a rapid torrent running between high and perpendicular rocks, by a bridge remarkable for its height, and which is therefore properly called the High-bridge: two of the arches are ninety-five feet high. This bridge was built

by General Wade, to form a communication with the country. These public works, as Mr. Pennant observes, were at first very disagreeable to the old chieftains, and lessened their influence greatly; for by admitting strangers among them, their clans were taught that the lairds were not the greatest men in the world: but they had another reason for this dislike, which was much more solid. This country was a den of thieves; and as long as they had their waters, their torrents, and their bogs in a state of nature, the chiefs made their excursions, and could plunder and retreat with their booty in full security: and so little were the laws regarded in this part of the country, that till after the late rebellion, no stop could be put to this infamous practice. The contribution called *Black-mail* was publicly levied in the most barefaced manner, by several of the plundering chieftains, over a vast extent of country; whoever paid it regularly, had their cattle insured, but those who dared to refuse were sure to suffer. Among these freebooters, Rob Roy, Macgregor, and Barrisdale were particularly distinguished. Of the first some account has been given.* Indeed, the highlanders at that time esteemed the open theft of cattle, or making a *creach*, by no means dishonourable: the young men considered it as a piece of gallantry, by which they recommended themselves to their mistresses.† The opening of roads, and stationing of soldiers at the chain of forts, had, however, the desired effect; and these lawless plunderers were at last rendered peaceable and good subjects.

* Page 63.

† Pennant's Tour.

This chain consists of Fort-George on the east, Fort-Augustus in the middle, and Fort-William on the west. These forts were originally of consequence in a military view; at present the chief services derived from them, and particularly Fort-William and Fort-Augustus, have been preserving the country from robberies: for this purpose, detachments are occasionally sent to different parts of the country. A dangerous banditti, not more than fifteen or sixteen years ago, infested this part of the country: the military from each fort pursued them among the caves and fastnesses of the mountains. They consisted of a set of thieves, deserters and murderers leagued together, to the great terror and annoyance of an extensive district. The ringleaders were at length taken by the military parties; some of them were transported, and the rest hanged.* Since that period the country has been perfectly safe.

ANOTHER benefit which has been derived from these forts, and the roads connected with them, has been the civilization of the highlands. The English garrisons which have successively occupied the forts, and the number of travellers to whom the military roads have given access, have undoubtedly induced the example of gentler and more polished manners, and have assisted in banishing those exclusive prejudices and partialities in favour of an individual superior, and of every thing attached to him, which had acquired such ferocity under the system of clanship. Besides, by these means, the English language has been much

* Lettice's Tour.

improved; we had often occasion to remark, in our journey through the highlands, that those who could speak English, spoke it not only without the Scotticisms, but without the tone of the lowlanders: this was particularly evident in the line of the forts; both at Fort-Augustus and Inverness, the language is spoken as correctly, and with as much purity, as in any part of England.

Soon after passing High-bridge, we entered a dreary and barren country, called Lochaber, which is very thinly inhabited, and the habitations we did see are as wretched as can be conceived. A little hut built with sticks, and covered with sods, with a small hole in the side to supply the place of a window; yet in these cabins, which are extremely small, six or eight persons often live, or rather exist.

THE chief produce of this country is black cattle, for which it has been long famed; these are in general sold to the English graziers and cattle jobbers, several of whom visit this country annually. But though the flat ground is stocked with black cattle, the hills begin to be covered with sheep.*

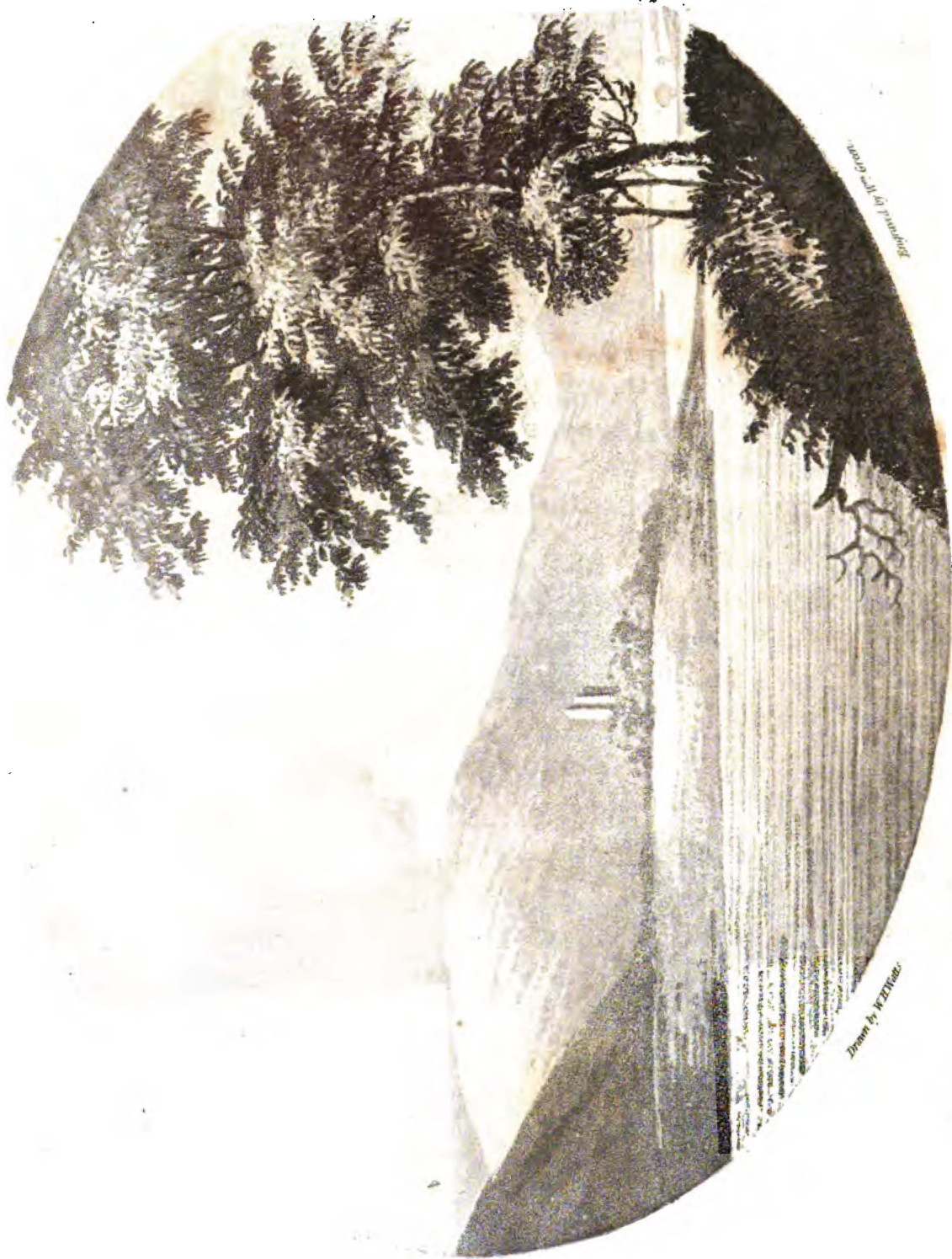
* It was on one of the wildest mountains in this wild country, that the Pretender erected his standard in the year 1745, having landed, for the conquest of the British empire, with seven officers, and arms for two thousand men. He immediately, on his landing, applied to Cameron of Lochiel, who on seeing him arrive in a manner so unprotected, entreated him to abandon an enterprize for which he was so ill prepared, and pointed out the many difficulties he had to encounter: upon this the young adventurer grew warm, and began to reproach him with ingratitude to his

THE peasants till small patches of ground near their huts, where they sow some oats, which return little more than the seed. They likewise cultivate the potatoe with tolerable success, and none of them forget to cultivate a little barley, to be manufactured into their favourite beverage, whisky.

ABOUT twelve miles from Fort-William, we obtained the first sight of Loch-Lochy, a very fine fresh-water lake, the length of which is about fourteen miles, and its breadth from one to two. The mountains on each side are very steep, and in some parts covered with wood.

NOT far from the middle of this lake is Letter Findlay, fourteen miles distant from Fort-William, a poor house, where we found very indifferent entertainment. While our horses were refreshing, we walked on the banks of the loch, and perceiving a boat we rowed across the water and back again: its breadth is here about a mile and a half, but the depth of that part we crossed did not any where appear to exceed four or five yards. The hills on each side of the lake afford fine pasturage for sheep. We pursued our journey along the southern bank; the road from its first approach to the lake is continued about eight miles along its banks, but is very bad, being frequently damaged by heaps of stones brought down from the mountains by rapid torrents that sovereign and a breach of honour. This was the right key to the heart of a highland chieftain: he told him that he would follow his fortunes to the last, and immediately took a tender and affecting leave of his family, whom he supposed he should never more behold.—The event of this wild project is well known.





Journal of W. Green

Drawn by W. H. H. H.

Emerging Castle?

fall down their sides during heavy rains, and which must at those times render the roads quite impassable.

SOON after we left Loch Lochy, we entered Glengary, a narrow glen bounded by mountains wooded to their bases. Here we met with a small but beautiful lake, called Loch Oich, which is about three or four miles long; its banks slope beautifully into the water, forming a number of little bays, and there are some pretty little tufted islands.

ON the opposite side are the ruins of Invergary castle, which was burnt in the year 1745. It has once been a large building, and is now a very picturesque object: near to it is a modern mansion, the residence of Macdonnel of Glengary, with a formal avenue of trees down to the lake.

AFTER leaving Loch Oich, we ascended a rising ground, from whence the head of Loch Ness, with its rough rocky banks, variegated with different tints, appeared to great advantage. On the northern side of the lake near its head, is Fort-Augustus, situated between the river Oich, which runs from the lake of that name, and the Tarff, issuing from Loch Tarff, to be afterwards described.

NEAR Fort-Augustus is a village, where we met with a very comfortable inn, and good stabling for our horses, considering that it was a highland stable: for in all the stables we had met

with in this country, there are no separate stalls, which is extremely inconvenient to the horses, and even dangerous. This might be remedied at a trifling expense; but the fact is, that the inhabitants being accustomed to stables of this kind, do not perceive the inconvenience of them.

WE had an excellent dinner, after which my companion being in a merry mood, by way of jesting with the girl who waited on us, asked for a dessert of fruit; but both he and I were surprized to see her return in a few minutes with a plate of very fine gooseberries, just gathered in the garden of the inn.

THE evening being fine, we went to take a view of the fort and neighbouring country. Fort-Augustus is a regular fortification, with four bastions, and barracks capable of accommodating 400 soldiers, with proper lodgings for the officers. It is a very neat looking place, and a surrounding plantation gives it very much the appearance of an English country seat: it is garrisoned by invalids, and supplied with provisions from Inverness by a sloop of sixty tons. Though the fortification is in good repair, it is by no means a place of strength, being commanded by the surrounding hills almost on every side. It was taken by the rebels in the year 1746, but was deserted by them after they had demolished what they could. This fort has contributed its share towards the civilization of the country: it seems likewise an excellent situation for a woollen manufactory.

JULY 28th. Having breakfasted at an early hour, we left Fort-Augustus, crossed the river Tarff by a wooden bridge, and ascended a high hill on the other side, from whence we had a fine view of Loch Ness stretched out beneath us, at the head of which Fort-Augustus appeared more like a modern peaceable mansion, than a place of defence. Proceeding a little farther, we lost sight of Loch Ness, but when we expected to enter a dreary mountainous country, we were agreeably surprized to find ourselves in a pleasant sequestered valley, through which a rivulet winds its rapid way into the loch; the banks are richly clothed with birch, and this valley is on every side surrounded by high mountains. On leaving this scene, we ascended the mountain *Seechuimin*, or Cummin's Seat, on the top of which we saw several small but beautiful lakes, that would have formed desirable ornaments to any gentleman's grounds. One larger than the rest is Loch Tarff, about three miles in circumference, with several small islands tufted with trees, or covered with brushwood or purple heath. This lake abounds with char. It is, as was before observed, the source of the river Tarff, which conveys to Loch Ness the waters of this lake, as well as several small streams that join it in its passage. The sides of these mountains afford excellent pasturage for the numerous flocks of sheep we observed upon them. From this mountain we descended very gradually along a barren moor, where we saw several of the carts or sledges of the country, employed in carrying peats; they have no wheels, but two arms projecting behind, which drag upon the ground, the horse bearing up the other end; they are very rude,

and badly contrived, for the horse has not only the cart to drag along, but part of the weight to bear. These carts or sledges, though common here, are not peculiar to this district: we observed them in several parts of the highlands, and a sketch of one is given in the fore-ground of the view of Glencroe. The harness in this country consists of a bridle made of the twisted twigs of birch; a stick about a yard long put under the horse's tail, and tied with twigs for a crupper: the saddle is a pad made of coarse sacking, tied with twisted birch twigs, or hair ropes.

As we proceeded, the country became extremely romantic, rugged mountains of granite presenting themselves in every direction, whose red sides were laid bare by the constant torrents rolling down them, all the soil having been washed away into the plains: this is the case with many of the mountains in this country: and in process of time they will consist entirely of naked rocks. The mountains of Morven, which in the days of Fingal and Ossian were covered with soil and wood, are now in a great measure denuded of both.*

* In this neighbourhood, in the manor of Badenoch, were very extensive *shealings* or grazings, to which the inhabitants used to remove in the beginning of the summer with their wives and children, and the whole of their cattle, in a truly patriarchal style. It was no uncommon thing to meet whole families going with the children in baskets or creels on each side of the horse, or often a child in one creel, and a stone in the other, to keep up the equilibrium: here, in temporary turf huts, they lived with their herds and flocks, and during the fine season made butter and cheese. Such dairy houses are common in most mountainous countries: Mr. Pennant describes similar ones in Glen Tilt and Jura; they are by no means uncommon in Wales, where they are called *Hafodtai*, or Summer-houses; those on the Swiss Alps were

AFTER having travelled a few miles among these mountains, we crossed the river, or, as it is called, the water of Foyers, and rode by its side through a valley as romantic as could be conceived. The banks of the river, as well as the sides of the mountains, were covered with weeping birch; here and there the mountains presented their naked fronts, from which huge fragments of rock have been hurled down to the bottom. After emerging from this valley, at the distance of about thirteen miles from Fort-Augustus, we again came in sight of Loch-Ness, and entering an avenue of weeping birch-trees, we soon came to two rude pillars, on the wall on our left hand, from whence we had a bird's-eye view of the furious cataract called the Fall of Foyers. This view of it is extremely striking; but as we wished to contemplate this celebrated fall to more advantage, we continued our ride through the wood of weeping birch, to the half-way house, called the General's Hut, situated on the banks of Loch-Ness, nearly about the midway, and commanding a delightful view of the lake.

WHEN General WADE was superintending the military roads,

called Sennes. When the grass in these sheallings in Badenoch became scarce, they returned to their principal farms where it had grown during their absence; here they remained, while they had sufficiency of pasturage, and then in the same manner went back to their sheallings, observing this ambulatory course during the seasons of vegetation. When their small crops were ripe, all hands descended from the hills, and continued on the farms till the same was cut and stacked, when they often returned to their sheallings, and remained, till driven from thence by snow.

Stat. Account of Boleskine and Abertarff.

he had a small house built here, which was afterwards used as an inn: the present public house is situated very near the place, and is still called the General's Hut. Having left our horses here, we were conducted by our landlord to the falls.

WE first visited the upper fall, which is about a mile and a half from the house, and nearly half a mile above the fall which we had seen from the road. Here the river Foyers being confined on each side by steep rocks, precipitates itself with great velocity, forming a very fine cataract. A little below the fall an arch has been thrown by the proprietor, Fraser of Foyers, from which the fall is seen: but in order to obtain a proper view of it, we, with some difficulty, scrambled down the steep banks to the rocks below, from whence we beheld this romantic scene in perfection. The bridge and rocks formed a fine frame, or foreground, behind which, at the distance of perhaps twenty yards, appeared the first part of the fall; the second, and most important break, was a few yards nearer, and the lowest almost under the arch.

OUR guide was present when very accurate measurements were taken of these falls; the following particulars are therefore put down from his information.

From the arch of the bridge to the surface of the	
water, after the lowest part of the fall	- - 200 feet.
Height of the fall	- - - - - 70 feet.

THE bridge was built about twelve years ago, before which time the only passage over this torrent was a rude alpine bridge, consisting of some sticks thrown over the rocks, and covered with turf. It was crossed by the peasantry on foot, but must certainly have turned giddy the steadiest head unaccustomed to such scenes. About three years before the present bridge was built, a neighbouring farmer, on his way home from Inverness, had called at the General's Hut, to shelter himself from the inclemency of the storm, and drive out the invading cold by reinforcing the garrison in the stomach. Here he met with some old acquaintance, with whom he conversed of former times, without observing the frequency of the circulating glass. The snow continued to fall in thick flakes, and they were sitting by a comfortable fire: at last, when the fumes of the whisky had taken possession of his brain, and raised his spirits to no ordinary pitch, he determined to go home. When he came to this place, having been accustomed to cross the rude bridge on foot, he habitually took this road, and forced his horse over it. Next morning he had some faint recollection of the circumstance, though the seeming impossibility of the thing made him suspect that it was a dream; but as the ground was covered with snow, it was very easy to convince himself: he accordingly went, and when he perceived the tracks of his horse's feet over the bridge, he was so much terrified at the danger he had escaped, that he fell ill, and died shortly afterwards.

IN our way to the lower fall, our guide shewed us a cave of considerable size, near the river, where the freebooters used to shelter themselves in turbulent times. There was a way of escape towards the water, should the main entry be discovered.

OUR next object was the lower fall; when we came to the pillars before mentioned, we left the road, and went down the side of the hill. The descent to the point of view is difficult, but we were amply-repaid for our trouble.

The following particulars are put down from the information of our guide:

From the top of the rocks, where the small figures are represented, to the surface of the water - - - - -	470 feet.
Height of the fall in one continued stream - -	207 feet.
From the place where the water appears as if bursting through the rock to the beginning of the uninterrupted fall - - - - -	5 feet.
So that the height of the fall may properly be called - - - - -	212 feet.

DOWN this precipice the river rushes with a noise like thunder into the abyss below, forming an unbroken stream as white as snow: from the violent agitation arises a spray, which envelops the spectator, and spreads to a considerable distance.



Drawn by W. H. Hunt

Engraved by W. G. Carter

Lower Fall at Tiers



THE following beautiful description of this fall was written with a pencil by Burns, as he was standing by it :

Among the heathy hills and ragged woods
 The roaring Foyers pours his mossy floods ;
 'Till full he dashes on the rocky mounds,
 Where, thro' a shapeless breach, his stream resounds.
 As high in air the bursting torrents flow,
 As deep recoiling surges foam below,
 Prone down the rock the whitening sheet descends,
 And viewless Echo's ear astonish'd rends.
 Dim seen, through rising mists and ceaseless show'rs,
 The hoary cavern wide-surrounding lowers ;
 Still thro' the gap the struggling river toils,
 And still below the horrid cauldron boils.

THIS is undoubtedly one of the highest falls in the world, and the quantity of water is sufficient to give it consequence. The scene is awful and grand, and I suppose that any person who has once beheld it will readily agree, that it is worth while to travel from Fort-William to this place merely to see this fall. Though an immense body of water falls down the celebrated cascade of Niagara, yet its height is not much more than half the height of this, being only 140 feet.*

ON the sides of the glen the elegant *Alchimilla alpina* grows in abundance.

* Morse's American Geography.

HAVING satisfied our curiosity respecting these celebrated falls, we returned to the General's Hut; here we found our landlord and guide, who had left us while Mr. Watts was making his sketch, acting the part of an ostler; and after he had done the needful to our horses, he went into the house, and commenced cook. When we first arrived here, we found him working in his garden, so that he had almost as many occupations as Mr. Elwes' huntsman: we were not, however, disposed to call him an idle dog. While our dinner was preparing, we sauntered about the banks of Loch-Ness. This lake is twenty-two miles in length, and from one to two and a half in breadth; the depth in the middle is from 60 to 135 fathoms. It sometimes rises from eight to ten feet perpendicular above low-water mark, from continued rains or melting snow. It is so deep even at the sides, excepting at the points of Torr and Foyers; that a ship of the line might sail within her length of the shore, from end to end, on either side. The high hills by which it is inclosed on the north and south, present, to a person sailing up the lake, a pleasant view of wood, pasture, rivers and rivulets, broken steeps, and irregular precipices. This large body of water is plentifully stocked with fish; trouts of three or four pounds weight are frequently taken out of it; and salmon often pass the Cruives in the river Ness, when the water is high.

THE water of this lake is esteemed so salubrious, that people frequently come or send thirty miles for it, though it certainly possesses no mineral impregnation, but is extremely soft and pure.

It never freezes in the severest winters: this fact, which is well ascertained, was doubted by Dr. Johnson, though it is nothing different from what takes place in all lakes that are large and deep. The reason why it never freezes is its great depth; though the above-mentioned author, who was a better philologist than natural philosopher, asserts that this circumstance can have little share in its exemption. It will not, however, require any intricate investigation to explain the reason why deep lakes are more difficult to freeze than shallow collections of water, even of much greater extent. The cold air in winter, which passes over the surface of the water, robs it of its heat, and condenses it; in consequence of its specific gravity being increased, it falls down to the bottom of the lake, and its place is supplied by the warmer and more rarefied water rising from below; this change of place will go on, till the whole of the water arrive nearly at the freezing point, before it can possibly freeze: and where lakes are very deep, the winter season is not sufficient to produce this effect. The water, when taken out of the lake, freezes very easily, as might be expected from its purity.

THIS lake is often violently agitated by winds, which sweep with impetuosity from the west to east; the current of air being confined and increased in its passage through the great glen; this frequently causes very large waves, which break violently against the rugged banks: but like some other large lakes, its waters have sometimes been greatly agitated when there were no ex-

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traordinary currents in the atmosphere that could ruffle its surface.

THE water of this lake was affected in a very surprizing manner on the first of November, 1755, the time at which the great earthquake was felt at Lisbon, and at the same time that Loch Lomond was so violently agitated, as was formerly mentioned. The water rose rapidly, and flowed up the lake from east to west with amazing impetuosity, the waves being carried more than two hundred yards up the river Oich, breaking on its banks near three feet above the level of the river; it continued ebbing and flowing for the space of an hour: at the end of which time, a wave much larger than the rest came up the river, broke on the north side, and overflowed the bank to the extent of thirty feet. A boat near the General's Hut, loaden with brushwood, was thrice driven ashore, and twice carried back again; the last time, the rudder was broken, the wood forced out, and the boat filled with water, and left on shore. Not the smallest agitation was felt on land.*

LEAVING the General's Hut, we proceeded along the romantic banks of the lake, through an avenue of birch trees; which, with the different views of the lake that constantly presented themselves, rendered the ride delightful. About a quarter of a mile beyond the inn, is the burial place where the church for-

* Pennant.

merly stood, but which has been removed a little above Foyers, for the greater convenience of the inhabitants.

ON the opposite side of Loch-ness, we saw the ruins of Castle Urquhart on a steep promontory projecting into the lake, a pleasant and romantic situation, commanding a fine view of this expanse of water from one end to the other. This venerable remnant of antiquity was once a place of great strength and considerable size. The lake washes the east wall, and the other three sides were fortified with strong ramparts, a ditch, and a draw-bridge; within the walls were buildings and accommodations for five or six hundred men.* This castle was a royal fort, and was granted by James IV. in 1509, with the estate and lordship of Urquhart, to the laird of Grant, in whose family they still continue. For some time before this grant was made, the lairds of Grant possessed the castle and lands of Urquhart as chamberlains of the crown. Abercromby, the historian, observes, that king Edward I. of England reduced this fort in 1303, and inhumanly put to the sword Alexander Bois and his garrison, who had bravely defended it. According to the same author, Robert Lauder, governor of this castle, maintained it in 1334 against the English, then in the cause of Edward Baliol.

THE rocks from the general's hut for a mile or two along the road, are of the pudding-stone kind, like those of Oban, but the pebbles are in general smaller, and the cement appears to be a kind of lava of a reddish hue.

* Stat. Account of Urquhart and Glen-moriston.

ON leaving the beautiful avenue of birch, we entered one of hazel, which continued some miles, and which, as Dr. Johnson observes, reminded us very strongly of an English lane: on these trees were great quantities of nuts. Near the end of the lake, we passed on our right the church and village of Dores; here the lake empties itself by the river Ness, which runs into the sea near Inverness.

FROM Fort-William we had been travelling all the way, in the great glen which divides Scotland into two parts, and which, as the reader must have observed, is nearly filled with lakes. This great opening is called Glen-more, or the great glen; sometimes *Glenn-more-na-h' alabin*, or the great glen of Caledonia. It will be scarcely necessary to point out the public advantages which would arise from opening a communication by water between the Murray Firth at Inverness, and the branch of the western ocean which comes up to Fort-William. This seems nearly completed by nature: for the distance taken in a straight line is little more than fifty miles; and of this, the navigable lakes Loch-Ness, Loch-Oich, and Loch-Lochy, make up near forty. The whole length of this line is thus stated by Mr. Knox:

	MILES.		MILES.
Loch-Lochy, - -	10	River Lochy, - -	7
— Oich, - -	4	— Oich, - -	5
— Ness, - -	22	— Ness, - -	8
		Land, - - -	2
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	36.		22

So that thirty-six miles are navigable on a grand scale, twenty miles consist of rivers which might be rendered navigable by means of cuts, and two miles of land. The expence of a canal in these twenty-two miles, seventy feet wide, and ten deep, he estimates at 164,000*l.*; no great sum when compared with the advantages which would result from it. It would not perhaps pay private adventurers at first, but might be undertaken by government, and would be productive of great national benefit.

I SHALL take the liberty to point out some of the most obvious advantages of such a communication, partly from Knox's View of the British Empire, partly from communications on that subject in Sir John Sinclair's Statistical Account, and partly from the ideas that occurred to myself.

THE length of navigation saved in a voyage from Inverness to the sound of Mull, would be above	- - - -	200 miles.
Ditto from Buchanness to ditto	- -	127 miles.
Ditto to vessels keeping the outside of the Orkneys, at seasons when the Pentland Firth cannot be navigated	- - -	187 miles.

VESSELS of nine feet water might pass with the greatest security from Inverness to Fort-William in three days; and small craft much sooner. The voyage by the Pentland Firth is upon an average two weeks, and sometimes two months.

WERE this line of navigation opened to the great western fisheries, and to the Hebrides, a new species of traffic and commercial intercourse would immediately arise; markets of reciprocal benefit would enliven both shores, and give employment to all those who prefer useful industry to indigence and idleness, of whom there are many thousands in this remote district.

NOR is it the highlands only that require the aid of a communication between the two seas. Due east from Inverness, the Murray Firth washes a coast of 105 miles to Buchanness, the eastern extremity of Aberdeenshire.

THE climate along the banks of the Murray Firth is soft, and the soil excellent, as appears from the exports of grain to Glasgow and the Hebrides. This country also abounds in iron and lead: the sea is bountiful in white fish and salmon, particularly the latter. Besides the maritime districts on the Murray Firth, there are sundry extensive vallies which penetrate far back into the country, winding beautifully amidst lofty mountains, to whose heathy appearance the verdant plains form an agreeable contrast.

BUT these shores and vallies, though thus abounding with people disposed for industry, and though amply supplied in the produce of land and water, labour under a natural misfortune. A ridge of hills called the Grampian mountains, forms an almost impassable chain from Aberdeen to Loch-Lomond. This chain,

nealy crossing the kingdom from sea to sea, cuts off the northern counties from all inland communication with the south and west during winter; nor do the narrow steep passes admit of the conveyance of goods even in summer.

ALL mercantile intercourse with the west and south-west parts of the kingdom must be therefore carried on by the long; the tedious, and very hazardous navigation by the Pentland Firth; and all vessels passing to and from the herring and white fisheries to the Hebrides, must also hazard the same navigation; though in winter, the season of the large herrings, and the most proper time for curing, even this passage is almost impracticable.

THE same inconvenience attends the inhabitants of the west highlands, in procuring from the east coast those supplies of grain and meal, which their native mountains do not afford in sufficient plenty for half the inhabitants, and which Ireland has sometimes denied, and may in future deny them.

ALL ships from Ireland and the west coast of England, bound for the east coast, for Holland, or the Baltic, could perform their voyage in at least a third less time than now, and with much greater safety. In like manner all the West-India and American traders from the east of Scotland, and the north-east coast of England, could avoid the circuitous and dangerous navigation by the Pentland Firth, and in time of war could rendezvous at Inverness or Fort-William, protected by strong forts, and harbours

that may be justly reckoned among the safest and most capacious in the kingdom. Besides, a frigate or two stationed in the Murray Firth, between Peterhead and Fort-George, together with one or two between the sound of Mull and the coast of Ireland, would afford greater protection to our trade in those quarters, than many times the number at present, when the navigation by the north about is so extensive and scattered. A variety of other circumstances might be mentioned to show the utility of this navigation, which sooner or later will, it is to be hoped, be opened. It is a work which nature has evidently intended and almost completed, and would certainly be the most important object for commercial enterprize that ever was undertaken by Great Britain.

FROM the failure of crops which frequently happen through a long continuance of cold and wet weather, the inhabitants of this neighbourhood have sometimes been reduced to the greatest distress: this, however, since the introduction of potatoes has not happened, and was this communication by water opened, and proper markets established at Fort-Augustus and Fort-William, it could scarcely occur.

IN the year 1783, a scarcity of this kind was prevented by government, and the benevolent exertions of mercantile gentlemen at Inverness. Oatmeal had risen to an enormous price, but was by importation reduced nearly to the average standard. Near

the end of the last century, the situation of this country was very different; the people were left to their own exertions. One crop having failed through the inclemency of the season, they had no resource for seed, but the damaged grain of their own growth. This occasioned the failure of a second and a third crop. During this scarcity, it is well known that several families inhabiting a place called Clunes, in the neighbourhood of Inverness, subsisted for two years on the herbs they could collect in summer, and gathered the seed of the wild mustard, with which their fields abounded; this was ground into meal, and afforded them a scanty subsistence in winter; but the third crop failing, they could subsist no longer. They accordingly deserted their habitations in a body, and coming down to the plain below, set up a lamentable cry; having wept till they had no longer power, they embraced each other, and dispersed in anguish and bitterness of heart, most of them to meet no more; each going where chance, or the hope of charity, conducted their steps; some to serve, and more to beg their bread; the wife separating from her husband, and the mother from her children.*

THAT similar scenes of distress have been witnessed since that time; appears from Mr. Knox. A gentleman who formerly resided in the highlands informed this philanthropic traveller, that during a scarcity, such as has been described, a poor farmer from a distant part of the country appeared at his gate with three

* See Stat. Account of Kirkhill.

small horses, imploring three bolls of meal to save his family and some of his neighbours, who having exhausted their stock, had collected three guineas to purchase grain or meal. The gentleman had a few bolls left, but his own neighbours being in the same situation with this man, he could afford him no relief, but advised him to proceed to Inverness, where grain in scarce seasons is imported by the merchants. The man went away greatly dejected: his horses were reduced to skeletons, and very unfit for the journey home under a load. In a few days this poor man appeared again, and informed him that neither grain nor meal could be had at Inverness, or elsewhere in that country; and that his family and neighbours were, by that time, looking out for his return with the means of their preservation. This account of the scarcity at Inverness, rendered the situation of the gentleman more embarrassing than before; his own people having a prior claim to his attention. He therefore refused the relief which must have been given at the expence of others in the same situation.

THE poor man listened with impatience, and watery eyes, to the dreadful sentence; representing in very moving terms, the feelings and situation of his family and neighbours, should he return empty-handed. "Give me," said he, "one boll, and you shall have the price of three bolls; here, Sir, are the three guineas, I must not go back without meal, otherwise we must all perish—there is no remedy elsewhere." Unable to resist the simple but genuine eloquence of the poor man, the gentleman

ordered him a boll of meal, with which, and his money, he desired he would depart to his family, which he instantly did, in transports of joy and gratitude.*

THERE is a vegetable common in Britain, that grows in very great abundance among the heaths and woods of the Highlands, which formerly was much esteemed, and is still resorted to occasionally by the inhabitants; I mean the *Orobis tuberosus*, or heath-peasling. It has purple papilionaceous flowers, succeeded by a pod containing about twelve dark coloured seeds, resembling small shot.† The roots of this plant, when boiled, are very savoury and nutritious; and when dried and ground into powder, they may be made into bread. A great quantity of this plant grows among the woods of Glenmore, and the Highlanders frequently chew the roots like tobacco, asserting, that a small quantity of them prevents the uneasy sensation of hunger; so that they generally provide themselves with them in their hunting and fishing expeditions. They can likewise prepare an intoxicating liquor from it.

AFTER we had left Lochness, and emerged from the woods of hazel and birch, the whole face of the country appeared changed. The rugged mountains, among which we had travelled so long, dwindled into gentle elevations, and we took leave,

* Knox's View of the British Empire, vol. ii. p. 443.

† Lightfoot's Flora Scotica.

at least for a considerable time, of the charming lake scenery which had continually enchanted us with new views almost every stage since we left Dumbarton. Our present road was very good, leading through some very extensive fir plantations, belonging to Fraser of Bonham. From the top of a small hill we saw Inverness, the capital of the Highlands, to great advantage. Before we reached this town, we joined the river Ness,* which runs out of the north-east corner of the lake; this fine river is ornamented by some beautiful tufted isles before it reaches Inverness. It runs along slowly and majestically, and during the whole of its course, which is about eight miles, the fall is scarcely ten feet. A great deal of juniper (*Juniperus communis*) grows by the side of the road, between the General's Hut and Inverness, and indeed many of the neighbouring hills are almost covered with it: a ship load of the berries used annually to be sent from hence to Holland.

* This river abounds with salmon, trout, and flounders; the salmon fishing begins on the 30th of November, and ends the 18th of September. The Berwick Fishing Company have fished this river upwards of forty years. The quantity of salmon caught in it amounts annually, on an average, to 300 or 350 barrels, an amazing quantity to be caught in a river of so short a course. (See Stat. Account of Inverness.)

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.