

CHAPTER V.

Dudley; significant Marks of the Mining Town. — Kindly Scotch Landlady. — Temperance Coffee-house. — Little Samuel the Teetotaller. — Curious Incident. — Anecdote. — The Resuscitated Spinet. — Forbearance of little Samuel. — Dudley Museum; singularly rich in Silurian Fossils. — *Megalichthys Hibberti*. — Fossils from Mount Lebanon; very modern compared with those of the Hill of Dudley. — Geology peculiarly fitted to revolutionize one's Ideas of Modern and Ancient. — Fossils of extreme Antiquity furnished by a Canadian Township that had no name twenty years ago. — Fossils from the Old Egyptian Desert found to be comparatively of Yesterday. — Dudley Castle and Castle-hill. — Cromwell's Mission. — Castle finds a faithful Chronicler in an old Serving-maid. — Her Narrative. — Caves and Fossils of the Castle-hill. — Extensive Excavations. — Superiority of the Natural to the Artificial Cavern. — Fossils of the Scottish Grauwacke. — Analogy between the Female Lobster and the Trilobite.

THE town of Dudley has been built half on the Silurian deposit, half on the coal-field, and is flanked on the one side by pleasant fields, traversed by quiet green lanes, and on the other by ruinous coal-workings and heaps of rubbish. But as the townspeople are not "lie-wasters," we find, in at least the neighborhood of the houses, the rubbish heaps intersected with innumerable rude fences, and covered by a rank vegetation. The mechanics of the place have cultivated without levelling them, so that for acres together they present the phenomenon of a cockling sea of gardens, — a rural Bay of Biscay agitated by the ground-swell, — with rows of cabbages and beds of carrots riding on the tops of huge waves, and gooseberry and currant bushes sheltering in deep troughs and hollows. I marked, as I passed through the streets, several significant traits of the