

of some old fishermen then alive, that there stretched along the shore in front of the grounds of Anchorfield, an extensive piece of links on which they used to dry their nets, but which had then been entirely washed away. The direct road between Leith and Newhaven used to pass along the shore to the north of Leith Fort, but it has long been demolished, and the road has been carried inland by a circuitous route.¹ Until the waste was checked by the numerous bulwarks and piers which have been erected along the coast, the waves broke at high tide upon a low cliff of stiff blue till or boulder-clay, which readily yielded to the combined influences of the weather. Hence large slices of the coast-line were from time to time precipitated to the beach. A footpath ran along the top of the bank overhanging high-water mark, and portions of it were constantly removed on the landslips of clay. By this means, as the ground sloped upwards from the sea, the cliff was always becoming higher with every successive excavation of its sea-front. The risk to foot-passengers was thus great; so many accidents, indeed, occurred there, that the locality was long known in the neighbourhood as the *Man-Trap*. Nearly a quarter of a century ago this dangerous piece of cliff disappeared; not, however, by the destructive force of the waves, but under the combined operations of mattock, wheelbarrow, and waggon. A branch railway was carried along the coast-line, the accumulated rubbish from some long cuttings through boulder-clay was shot over the sea-cliff, completely covering it up, and thus carrying the land out to sea again. The large piece of ground thus reclaimed has been strongly protected by a bulwark.

Higher up the Firth of Forth, at the Bay of Barnbogle, a lawn of considerable extent, once intervening between the

¹ Stevenson, *Mem. Wer. Soc.* vol. ii.