

## SCHICHALLION.

SUIDHE CHALLAN—THE STONY SEAT.

CELESTIAL pyramid, whose massive whole  
Makes that of Cheops dwindle to a mole,  
While thy confuséd cairn, flung high in air,  
All split and shattered, weather-worn and bare,  
Flouts the mean laboured heap of formal style  
That crowns the height of Gizeh by the Nile.  
Primeval man has looked upon thy peak  
Whose lofty cone has made his fancy speak,  
And fondly named thy form the "Maiden's Breast";  
Or else "of Fairy Queen the thronéd rest";  
Or hunters in thy butt, who watching stop,  
"The mountain of the rough and rocky top".  
When Romans from the south swept o'er our land,  
At thy sheer base their legions made a stand,  
Thinking to conquer thee of small avail,  
Their baffled arms arrest at "Fort of Gael".\*  
When Wallace from the rage of Saxon hordes  
Sought the repose thy shielding side affords,  
A night he safely passed in "Seomar na Stainge",†  
Nor subtle enemy upon him sprang.  
Whence grandly viewed, thy hardy crest on high  
Towers royally unto the Scottish sky.  
Then at thy feet, by fair "Dun Alastair",  
Bruce and his Queen sought refuge from the war,  
Until the mounted Sassenach‡ through the glen  
Attacked the royal host beneath thy ben.  
But yet at "Iompech"§ they turned and fled,  
Leaving their fallen who on the heather bled.

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\* Fortingall.

† "The chamber of the ditch"—a curious relic of a miniature fort about a mile east of Kinloch-Rannoch.

‡ Glen Sassen is named from the fact that the English came that way to attack Bruce.

§ "Iompech" means a turning. The Gaelic is now corrupted into the unmeaning place name "Tempar".

Then shouts of triumph from "Dalchosnie"\* rose  
 Through Donach's† timely help to rout the foes.  
 Still stands the "Clach na Boile"‡ in the field  
 To tell that Highland hearts can never yield.  
 Upon that battle ground thou still look'st down,  
 Impassive, calm, majestic, grey Schichallion!  
 Ride on in azure, monument of trust,  
 Like jewel fixed upon the round earth's crust.  
 And while that orb upon its axis turns,  
 Still plunging through the star-sown sphere that burns,  
 Be thou a beacon fired by solar beam,  
 Blazing thy radiance over loch and stream;  
 And as the voice from Memnon's statued face,  
 So may'st thou ever teach the Scottish race,  
 Whether at home, or scattered o'er the sea,  
 The grand perpetual lesson of our sires, "Be free"!

COINNEACH MATHANACH, IX.

GLENDEVON,

*St. Andrew's Day, 1898.*

\* "Dalchosnie"—the field of triumphant shouting or hosannah.

† "Donacha Reamhor", Big Duncan, Chief of Clann Donnachaidh.

‡ "The stone of frenzy", situated at the base of Dun Ailean, on the Innerhadden Estate.



PRECIPICES, BEN NEVIS.