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from him at Brownswick, inviting me to stay with him for a few days ; and it was there I was going when the idiot led me into all the swamps he could find."

" It isn't much above half-a-mile," answered Ben ; " why, we are upon his ground now, sir, and I am sure he will be very glad to see you. Lord, if you had told me that before, it would have saved us all that thinking about public-houses. Mr. Graham would never have forgiven me if I had let you go to an inn, even if there had been one to go to, when you were invited to his house up there. He has a great sight of company with him, come to shoot, and all that ; and if they expect you, sir, I should not wonder if they were waiting for you before they take their dinner ; for they dine when we sup."

" I cannot well present myself in such a wet and muddy condition," said Ben's visitor, in a musing tone.

Ben looked at his knapsack, which lay on the floor, near the fire, as if he thought that it must contain wherewithal to improve his guest's outward appearance ; but the other divining instantly what he meant replied to the glance,

" No, that will not do. There is nothing in it but some geological specimens,