

HE THAT HAD RECEIVED THE FIVE
TALENTS.

CHAPTER I.

THE VILLAGE OF ARDERHOLM.

"A mouldered church, and higher
A long street climbs to one tall-towered mill."

—*Enoch Arden.*

On the West coast of Scotland a range of hill rises almost sheer out of the sea, with the quaint peak of Raven's Head standing out of it conspicuously, and vindicating from generation to generation the popular fancy embodied in its name. Between it and the shore, at a distance of nearly a mile, the ancient upheavals, that shaped the present surface of the earth, have lifted a knoll of commonplace form, known as Patricklaw. Down the gully between the two hills