

Hogg stands apart from these, unique and alone. We might say of him thus:—

“A solitary rock in a far distant sea  
Rent by the thunder’s shock an emblem  
stands of thee.”

Hogg was ever on the hilltop looking, on the one hand, into the sun and beyond it, and, on the other, viewing the quiet scenery beneath, and what men were doing there, guided by the spirit world above. He was ever rising from the natural to the supernatural; turning his thoughts from the material to the spiritual world. Through the mists that overhang the river he sees the spirits of the departed, the subdued shades of the gloaming bring with them the witching hour. He takes his pilgrims far away into the cerulean depths beyond the circuit of the sun, and shows them the vast universe, and then brings them safely back again to sing to them that sweet pastoral “When the Kye Comes Hame.” His “Sky-lark” is less of a bird than a spirit, for it pierces the blue dome above the rainbow’s rim. “Little Pynkie” is a blend between a child of the earth and one of the sky, and when she wheels in her magic dance she holds her spectators spellbound, and makes them join in her fairy circlings. Kilmeny is spirited away, and brought back again a creature of indescribable beauty. The great poets of the imagination, Shelley and Shakespeare, claim him as one of their own.

Burns drew his poetic visions from a con-