

long parallel markings on the rocks can be followed as they slant over the west side of the valley and pass across the hills of Cowal some 1300 feet in height into Loch Fyne. The ground between that loch and the Glendarual valley has been worn down into many hollows which, with the striation, trend away to the south-west.

It was at one time believed that these polished and striated surfaces of rock were produced by icebergs when the land stood at a lower level than now. But this notion has now been universally abandoned. The striæ do not merely run along the top or side of a hill, as they might be supposed to do if grating icebergs had made them. They run up and over the ridges and hills, accommodating themselves to all the little inequalities of the surface over which they pass. This could never have been done by a rigid mass of ice moving horizontally like a berg or floe, with no determinate motion of its own, but driven by ocean-currents and winds. On the contrary, it points to an agent endowed with such plasticity as to be able to mould itself upon the irregularities of its rocky bed and to rise or fall as the nature of the ground required. And this agent, as shown by the divergence of the striæ, must have moved outwards and downwards from the chief mountain masses, such as the Grampians and the chain of heights from Loch Eribol to the Sound of Mull. It must have filled up wide and deep valleys, pressing everywhere steadily and mightily upon the rocks, disregarding the minor features of the surface of the country, passing over hills six or eight hundred feet high as if they were mere boulders, and continuing its operations over so long a period as finally to leave the country smoothed and polished, or, as it were, moulded into a flowing undulating contour.

To fulfil these conditions the only agent known in nature