

is land-ice. As was stated in Chapter IV., the polished and striated rocks find their exact counterparts along the course of every modern glacier. There is hardly a Highland glen, nay, strange as it may sound, there are not many hillsides, even of the Lowlands, which do not remind one of the *roches moutonnées*, or ice-worn knolls of the Alps. The moulded outlines are the same, the striæ are the same, and the parallelism of the striation with the direction of the long valleys is alike the same, in Scotland and in Switzerland. In comparing the rock-markings of the two countries, we are driven to admit, that as in one case we see these markings to be manifestly the work of moving glacier-ice which is still visible and still produces the same results, so, in the other instance, precisely similar effects must be due to the same cause, although the Scottish glaciers have long disappeared.

In the year 1840 Agassiz, fresh from a study of the Swiss glaciers, came to Scotland and announced this conclusion as the result of his examination of the Highland glens. But British geologists tried every other expedient for somewhere about a quarter of a century before they began generally to adopt the views of the great Swiss glacialist. Their difficulty lay not in the admission of the existence of glaciers in Scotland, for admirable descriptions of glacier-moraines and striæ in Skye, Forfarshire, and Argyllshire, were published by J. D. Forbes, Lyell, and C. Maclaren. But if the universal striation were everywhere taken as evidence of the existence of land-ice, it was plain that Scotland must not merely have been the seat of local glaciers, as Switzerland and Norway are at the present day, but must have been actually sealed in ice from mountain-top to sea-shore, like Northern Greenland. This was a supposition too violent for ready credence, and hence the