CHAPTER XIV

THE ANCIENT GLACIERS OF THE SOUTHERN UPLANDS

As the rocks of the southern district of Scotland are on the whole less durable than those of the Highlands, they have not preserved quite so faithfully or universally the impress left upon them by the ice-sheets of the Glacial period. That they have been intensely glaciated, however, will be recognised by any one who seeks for proofs of ice-work. In spite of the thick mantle of boulder-clay that covers so much of the valleys and of the lower hill-slopes, and in spite also of the tendency of so many of the rocks to decay and conceal themselves beneath a coating of turf or peat, abundant polished and striated rocks may be found in every district from the headlands of Wigtonshire to those of St. Abb's Head. In some parts of Galloway, indeed, the *roches moutonnées* are hardly less perfect and conspicuous than in most of the Highlands.

From the direction of the striæ, it is evident that the Southern Uplands formed another centre of dispersion for the southern part of the Scottish ice-sheet.[1] A vast mass of ice

[1] To speak more accurately, there were several distinct centres of movement of the ice that lay on these uplands, as will be evident from the Glaciation Map. But the southern ice-field may be regarded as one