

ing over the land it is no wonder that there should be *roches moutonnées* even on the tops of many of the Lowland ridges, and that the rocks should show such widespread proofs of having had their roughness rounded off.

I have left for fuller consideration in this chapter the results of the abrasion of the surface of the country by the ice-sheet, as manifested in the abundant detritus that has been left in the valleys and all over the lower grounds. Before the Ice Age began, Britain had probably stood for a long time above the sea. Its superficial rocks had consequently been exposed to protracted sub-aërial disintegration. Much of the decomposed rock would of course be washed off by rain. But over the flatter surfaces of ground, where the transporting power of rain would be least, the rotted rock probably accumulated *in situ*. In the south of England, which the ice-sheet did not reach, a considerable thickness of such decomposed material may now be seen, representing probably a prolonged period of sub-aërial disintegration. When the ice-sheet settled down upon the country, and began to creep over its surface, this superficial layer of rotted rock would first be removed. The ice thus found a vast quantity of loose material ready to be pushed onward and to be made into various kinds of 'drift.'

Of all the varieties of detritus left behind by the ice, the most universal and characteristic is the *till* or *boulder-clay*. This interesting deposit may be seen exposed in banks and cliffs along the course of almost any Lowland brook, from the sea-shores up to a height of 1700 feet or more. Its maximum thickness is reached in the Carse of Stirling, where it attains a depth of 160 feet.

The boulder-clay has had much influence on the character of the scenery of the Lowlands. As its surface is for the most part smooth and undulating, it gives an aspect of