himself to the members of Agassiz' class. In that poem, which was re-published in 1841, the epoch of ice was thus depicted :—

> "Ice of the Past! of an Age when Frost
> In its stern clasp held the lands of the South,
> Dressed with its mantle of desolate white
> Mountains and forests, fair valleys and lakes!"

In July 1837, Agassiz[1] laid a report of his glacier studies before the Annual Congress of Swiss Scientists, in which he expressed his view that a strong fall of temperature had taken

[1] Louis Jean Rudolph Agassiz, the son of a Swiss Protestant pastor, was born 28th May 1807 at Motiers, on the Murten Lake (Canton Waadt). He was educated first at the academy of Lausanne, and later studied Medicine and the Natural Sciences at Zürich, Heidelberg, and Munich. While still a student he occupied himself with the study of recent and fossil fishes, and after the publication of the first part of his great work on *Fossil Fishes* he came into personal relations with Cuvier and Humboldt in Paris. In 1832 the already world-renowned young naturalist was appointed Professor at the Academy of Neuchâtel, and made it an active centre of scientific investigation. In 1834 he paid a visit to England for the purpose of studying the British fossil fishes, and in the same year received from the Geological Society the Wollaston medal. In the summer of 1836 he began his glacial studies under Charpentier's direction, and pursued them for ten years with striking success in the Swiss Alps, in Great Britain, and afterwards in North and South America. In 1846 he crossed the Atlantic and delivered courses of lectures in various towns, and was appointed Professor of Zoology and Geology in the University of Cambridge, U.S.A., in 1847. He went as Professor of Comparative Anatomy to Charleston in 1851, but returned in 1853 to Cambridge. In 1859, he founded there, with pecuniary aid from private individuals and also from the State, the fine Museum of Comparative Zoology. His public lectures, also the instruction he gave at Harvard College, his numerous publications, exhibited such an almost unique activity as to procure him great popularity. His interest in his magnificent Museum, the opportunities to follow his zoological studies, and to take part in various marine expeditions which his residence near the sea procured him, and, not least, the enthusiastic reception which he had received in North America, and the influence he could have there on the whole development of scientific life, induced Agassiz to refuse many tempting offers to return to his native land, and also the offer of an appointment in Paris as a Professor in the Museum. He became a naturalised American, and died in Cambridge, Mass., on the 14th December 1873. Besides his epoch-making work on fossil fishes and his glacial studies, Agassiz published valuable monographs on fossil and recent Echinids and Molluscs, and numerous zoological works. In 1868 a report on his journey to Brazil appeared, and was followed in 1871 by another on a deep-sea investigation between Cape Horn and California. To the last Agassiz combated Darwin's theory of evolution.