sea. It is now universally admitted, however, that the transport has been entirely the work of glaciers. Instead of being confined, as at present, to the higher parts of their valleys, the glaciers extended down into the plains. As already stated, they filled the great depression between the Oberland and the Jura, and, rising high upon the flanks of the latter chain, actually overrode some of its ridges. Similar evidence in the hilly parts of Britain, as well as in other parts of Europe and America, no longer the abode of glaciers, shows that a great extension of snow and ice at a recent geological period prevailed in the northern hemisphere, as will be described in the account of the

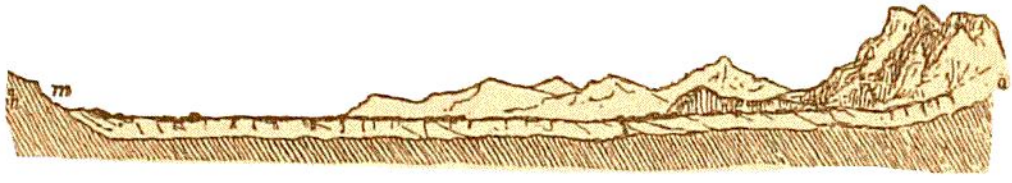

Fig. 153.—Section to show the extension of the Alpine Glaciers (*a*) across the Plain of Switzerland, and the transport of blocks to the sides of the Jura (*m*) (*B.*).

Glacial Period in Book VI. Extensive as are the present ice-sheets and glaciers of Greenland, they are undoubtedly much reduced from their former size, for bare ice-worn rocks are found beyond their limits, as in Scandinavia.[237] There is proof also that the glaciers of New Zealand were formerly much larger.[238]

As De la Beche has well pointed out, the student must be on his guard lest he be led to mistake for true erratics mere weathered blocks belonging to a rock that has disintegrated *in situ*. If, for example, he should encounter a

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[237] Meddelelser om Grönland. H. Rink, Petermann's Mittheilungen, 1884, p. 136, gives some recent results of Greenland exploration. Much useful information regarding the Arctic regions is given in the "Manual and Instructions for the Arctic Expedition," 1875.

[238] For New Zealand glaciers see A. P. Harper, Geograph. Journ. i. 1893, p. 32.