

Among the proofs of great erosion by ice on hard rocky surfaces the existence of basins scooped out of the solid rock are perhaps the most striking. The striæ and scorings may in such cases be traced down below the water at the end of a tarn or lake, and may be found emerging at the other end with the same steady direction as on the surrounding ground or inclosing valley. In the year 1862 the late Sir A. C. Ramsay drew attention to this peculiar power of land-ice, and affirmed that the abundance of excavated rock-basins in Northern Europe and America was due to the fact that these regions had been extensively

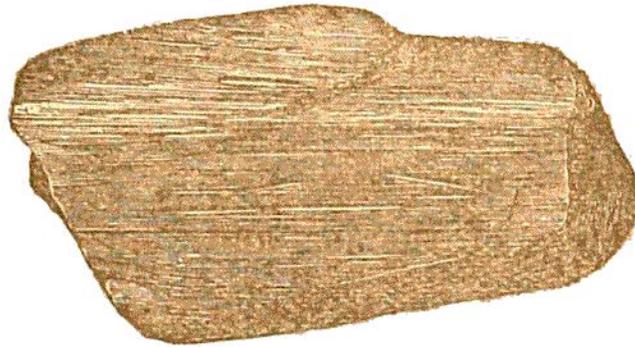


Fig. 160.—Striated stone from Boulder-Clay.

eroded by sheets of land-ice, when the more northern parts of the two continents were in a condition like that of North Greenland at the present day.<sup>244</sup> It is among the ice-fields of Greenland, rather than among the valley-glaciers of isolated mountain-groups, that the operations which produced the widespread general glaciation of the period of the rock-basins find their nearest modern analogies. A single valley-

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<sup>244</sup> Q. J. Geol. Soc. xviii. 1862, p. 185. See also a paper by A. Helland (*op. cit.* xxxiii. p. 142), on the Ice-fjords of North Greenland, and the formation of Fjords, Lakes and Cirques. That glaciers rub down rocks is demonstrated by the *roches moutonnées* which they leave behind them. That they can dig out hollows has been denied by some able observers, but that they can do so to some extent at least, seems to be proved by the way in which the ice-striæ descend into and rise out of rock-basins. For arguments against this view see especially W. D. Freshfield, *Proc. Roy. Geog. Soc.* 1888, p. 779, and authorities there cited.