

CHAPTER XXIV.

OLD BRITISH GLACIERS.

THOSE who have closely observed the Highlands of Scotland and of Cumberland, may remember that, though the weather has had a powerful influence, rendering the mountains in places rugged, jagged, and cliffy, yet, notwithstanding this, their general outlines are often remarkably rounded, flowing in great and small mammillated curves, a configuration of ground tolerably plain in the accompanying view (fig. 80), especially in the rocks of the island in the foreground. When we examine the valleys and plains in detail we also find that the same mammillated structure frequently prevails. These rounded forms are known in Switzerland as *roches moutonnées*, a name now in general use among those who study the action of glacier-ice. Similar ice-smoothed rocks strike the eye in many British valleys, marked by the same kind of grooving and striation, so characteristic of the rocks of Switzerland. Almost every valley in the Highlands of Scotland bears them, and the same is the case in Cumberland, Wales, and other districts in the British Islands, and not in the valleys alone, but also in the low countries as far as Liverpool and the middle of England.

Considering all these things, geologists, led many years ago by Agassiz, have by degrees come to the