

CHAPTER XXV.

OLD BRITISH GLACIERS CONTINUED.

I SHALL now briefly describe some of the broader features of the glacial phenomena of the western coasts of England, with here and there necessary allusions to and descriptions of the interior of the country.

It is a self-evident proposition, that when cold began to increase sufficiently to produce glaciers in Britain, these in their infancy must have been first formed in the high regions of the north, where precipitation of snow was greatest among the mountains of the Highlands. As the climate got more severe, such glaciers would spread from the upland glens in all directions, and by-and-by, as cold and precipitation became more and more intense, and at last the whole mountain land, like the interior of Greenland, got smothered in ice, a prodigious onflow of glacier ice spread from the Highlands west into the Atlantic across the Outer Hebrides, and south into the North or Irish Channel along the ice-buried valleys of the Sound of Jura, Loch Fyne, and the whole of the Firth of Clyde, in the midst of which the island of Arran then formed, what it may seem presumptuous to call, only a great *roche moutonnée*; or if any of its peaks then stood above the surface of this *mer de glace*, they yielded but a feeble contribution of ice to swell the general mass of the glacier. Escaped from the Highlands, the glacier split upon the island of