

CHAPTER XXVI.

GLACIAL EPOCH CONTINUED. SUBMERGENCE AND RE-ELEVATION OF LAND, AND FINAL DISAPPEARANCE OF BRITISH GLACIERS.

IN describing the glacial phenomena, my chief concern in this book is to show the effects produced by ice on the general scenery of the country, and it is therefore unnecessary that I should here attempt to go into all the details of glacial and interglacial episodes, and of minor upheavals and depressions of land, thus seemingly tracing out a chronological series of geological events as clear and precise as any six or eight stages in the succession of the Oolitic subformations. It is enough for me at present to deal with a broader view of the subject.

Whether or not, before and during the first growth of the glaciers, the British area, by upheaval, was united to the Continent, I do not know, but of this I am certain that, probably during, and certainly after the largest extension of glacier-ice, the land underwent a process of submersion, and while the great glacier was retiring, the diminishing ice, still descending to the sea, deposited moraine rubbish there. In Scotland, marine shells *in situ* are found at heights somewhat more than 500 feet above the level of the sea, and if the whole of Britain were then submerged only to that depth, it must have presented the spectacle of a group of islands. One of these would consist of the mountainous country north