

CHAPTER XXVII.

GLACIAL EPOCH CONTINUED.—ORIGIN OF CERTAIN LAKES.

THERE is an important subject connected with the physical geography of our country, and that is, the multiplicity of lakes in the mountain regions, and the question thus arises—To what physical operations do they happen to be so numerous in some districts and so scarce or altogether absent in others?

When glaciers descended into valleys, and deposited their terminal moraines, it sometimes happened that when a glacier declined in size its moraine still remained tolerably perfect, with this result—that the drainage formerly represented by ice is now represented by running water, which is dammed in between the surrounding slopes of the solid mountain and the mound formed by the terminal moraine, thus making a lake. There are such minor lakes on the Italian side of the Alps below Ivrea, and there are several among the mountains of Wales, which at least are partly dammed in by moraines, and a few, perhaps, entirely so. They are always small, and may be classed as tarns, lying at the bases of cliffs in the upper recesses of the mountains. Whether there are any in Scotland, dammed by the terminal moraines of common valley glaciers, I do not know, although they may exist in parts that I have not visited. Furthermore, sometimes on the *outer* side of these moraines we find what