

This point is clear, that most of our country, as in Greenland and Victoria Land now, was in the icy period ground by a heavy weight of slowly moving and long enduring glacier-ice, which I firmly believe was the scooping power that originated most of the lake scenery of our country. I go further, for in ice-worn rocky regions, both north and south of the equator, the farther north or the farther south we go the more do lakes increase in number, and I am convinced, that this fact is not a mere accidental coincidence, but is one of the strongest proofs of the former existence of that widespread coating of glacier-ice that in old times moulded the face of so much of both hemispheres. The day has been when Greenland was a mild and fertile country,<sup>1</sup> and should such an episode return, its land-surface will be varied by a prodigious number of lakes, and should its fiords emerge, its splendid highland valleys will show many a long stretch of fresh water dotted with islands, like some of the lakes of Sweden, of Loch Lomond, and others in Scotland, or like Lake Champlain in North America.

This full theory, brought out in March, and published in August 1862, of the origin of so many lakes in the northern hemisphere, wherever there have been either widespread continental or even isolated mountain glaciers, was on the whole received with disfavour, or 'faint praise,' in England and Switzerland when first produced, and it fared but little better in the north of Italy, where, however, it was then allowed that it 'deserved the gravest attention,' and its general principles have since been accepted by Gastaldi. Now

before this was discovered I had proved them to be rock-bound glacier lake-basins.

<sup>1</sup> In Miocene times.