

sider, if true—and I firmly believe it to be true—that so many of those hollows in which lakes lie have been scooped out by the slow and long-continued passage of great sheets of glacier ice, quite comparable to those vast masses that cover the extreme northern and southern regions of the world at this day.

The water-drainage of the country is likewise seen to be dependent on geological structure. Our larger rivers chiefly drain to the east, and excepting the Severn, the Dee (Wales), the Mersey, the Solway, and the Clyde, the smaller ones to the west, partly because certain axes of disturbance happened to lie nearer our western than our eastern coasts. Again, the quality of water in these rivers depends, as we have seen, on the nature of the rocks over which they flow, and of the springs by which they are supplied.

Then, when we come to consider the nature of the population inhabiting our island, we find it also to be greatly influenced by this old geology. The earlier tribes were in old times driven into the mountain regions in the north and west, and so remain to this day—still speaking their own languages, but gradually mingling now, as they did before, with the masses of mixed races that came in with later waves of conquest from other parts of Europe. These later races settling down in the more fertile parts of the country, first destroyed and then again began to develop its agricultural resources. In later times they have applied themselves with wonderful energy to turn to use the vast stores of mineral wealth which lie in the central districts. Hence have arisen those densely-peopled towns and villages in and around the Coal-measure regions, where so many important manufactures are carried on. Yet in the west, too—in Devon and