

down by the present glacier. In short, we saw here actually at work a process of excavation, by which it had been conjectured that the marine drift was removed from certain valleys in the British Isles.¹

We made two attempts, both unsuccessful, to climb to the vast tableland of snow from which these glaciers are fed. But we succeeded in reaching a point from which a good view of the seemingly boundless undulating plain of smooth snow could be obtained. We ascended the ridge that separates the two glacier valleys just described. After leaving the raised beach of Fondalen, with its massive erratics, we climbed a steep slope, clothed with a thick brushwood of birch, mountain-ash, and dwarf-willow, and luxuriant masses of ferns, bilberries, cloudberry, juniper, rock-geranium, lychnis, etc. The beech trees are often a foot or a foot and a half in diameter at the base, and are the building material used at the hamlet of Fondalen below. These trees, at the height of 1320 above the sea, still often measure a foot across near the root, and 15 or 20 feet in height. At this height, and even considerably lower, there were large sheets of snow on the 12th of July, and these increased in number and depth as we ascended. The birch trees grow smaller and more stunted as they struggle up the bare mountain ridge, until they become mere bushes. The willows, in like manner, dwindle down till they look like straggling tufts of heather, though still bearing their full-formed catkins. At a height of 1690 feet, these stunted bushes at last give place to a scrub of bilberry, mosses, and lycopods. The mountain consists of gneiss, sometimes massive and jointed, sometimes fissile and flaggy, with a strike towards W., 15° S. The extent to which the higher

¹ See Sir A. C. Ramsay, *Glaciers of Switzerland and Wales*, 2d edition, p. 60.