

rocky scarps have suffered from the disintegrating effects of the weather arrests attention ; for the gneiss is split up along its joints into large blocks, which lie piled upon each other in heaps of angular ruin. We noticed one or two masses, differing in lithological character from the rocks around, and possibly ice-borne from some of the neighbouring eminences. On reaching a point 2700 feet above the fjord, our farther passage was arrested by a narrow, shattered, knife-edge of gneiss, along which, without suitable climbing gear, it was impossible to advance. But from this elevated point we could judge of the general aspect of the great snowy tableland of the Svartisen, which was sloping towards us, while the two glaciers were spread out in plan beneath.

The branch of the Holands Fjord which, opposite to the hamlet of Fondalen, strikes off to the north-east for seven or eight miles, is bordered on the south side, and closed in at its farther end, by a range of steep, almost precipitous, walls of rock, the summits of which are on a level with, and indeed form part of the great tableland. Here, as in so many other parts of Norway, we are reminded that the fjords are, after all, mere long sinuous trenches, dug deeply out of the edge of a series of elevated plateaux. And, looking up to the crest of these dark precipices, we see the edge of the high snow-plain peering over, and sending a stream of blue glacier ice down every available hollow. We counted seven of these tiny glaciers, exuding from under the snow, and creeping downward under the sombre cliffs of gneiss. Not one of them comes much below the snow-line, and none, of course, reaches the sea. The largest of them is near the end of the fjord, and appears as a broken, crevassed mass of ice, moulded as it were over the steep hillside, and, when seen from below, seeming about to slip