

On these far northern shores, then, there still remain fragments of the surface on which our oldest sedimentary accumulations were deposited. These fragments are found to bear in their smooth hummocky contours a striking resemblance to the surface which geologists now always associate with the action of glacier-ice. There can at least be no doubt that they are denuded surfaces. The edges of the vertical and twisted beds of gneiss and schist have been smoothly bevelled off. These rocks, however, would never have assumed such a contour if exposed merely to ordinary sub-aërial disintegration. They would have taken sharp craggy outlines like those which are here and there gradually replacing the ice-worn curves of the *roches moutonnées*. They have certainly been ground by an agent that has produced results which, if they were found in a recent formation, would, without hesitation, be ascribed to land-ice. The breccia, too, is quite comparable to moraine stuff. Without wishing at present to prejudge a question on which I hope yet to obtain further evidence, I think we have in the meantime grounds for concluding that in the north-west of Scotland there is still traceable a fragment of the earliest known land-surface of Europe, that this primeval country had a smooth undulating aspect not unlike that of the west of Sutherland at the present time, that it contained rock-hollows, some of them filled with water, that into these hollows piles of coarse angular detritus were thrust, that around and beneath the tracts where this detritus accumulated the gneiss was worn into dome-shaped forms strongly suggestive of the operation of land-ice, and that though the ice of the last Glacial Period undoubtedly ground down the platform of gneiss, bared as it was of the overlying formations, it found a surface already worn into approximately the same forms as those which it presents to-day.