

with blocks of every size, some of them larger than many a Highland cottage, stretching across as if to bar all attempts to penetrate into the recesses of the valley. These ramparts sometimes run without break from one side to the other, and rise to a considerable height, and as he picks his way among scattered blocks and ice-worn knolls of rock, he may find himself spurred on by curiosity to discover what may lie behind the last rugged boulder-covered barrier of detritus that towers so formidably in his front. He mounts its outer slope, and on reaching the summit sees below him perhaps a lochan or tarn. The barrier is the latest moraine thrown down by the glacier that once crept down the valley ; and it serves still, as at first, to dam back the drainage. From the lake thus formed the surplus waters are now slowly cutting for themselves a pathway through the moraine. The time will come when the stream will have dug its channel as deep as the bottom of the lake, which will then be emptied, leaving a broad flat meadow to mark where it stood. In many a Highland glen it is easy to trace the successive backward steps of the ice as it continued to shrink up into the higher recesses of the mountains. Each band of moraine marks a limit at which the lower end of the glacier continued for a while stationary, melting there and throwing down its accumulated piles of rubbish. Hence, in traversing a series of such moraines, we see the evidence of successive pauses in the retreat of the glacier, until at last we gain the upper end, where the stream of ice finally shrank up into the snow-fields, and where these, as the climate grew warmer, at last melted away.

So abundant are the examples of this characteristic type of Highland scenery that it is hardly needful to single out any by name. They may be seen on almost any of the