

present river. But as he nears Glen Roy, his eye rests upon another and more astonishing terrace. Far away up the valley, if the day be favourable for a distant view, he sees a line ruled, as it were, along the steep hill-side to the south of the river, and running apparently in absolute horizontality until it is lost to sight. Before turning up Glen Roy to examine the terraces for which that valley has so long been famous, he would do well to continue the ascent of Glen Spean, that he may first of all convince himself by the most striking evidence how extensive were the last glaciers in this mountainous district. A short way beyond Bridge of Roy Inn, the road quits the reassorted glacial rubbish of the valley-bottom, and begins to rise over hummocks of hard schist. These protuberances of rock are smoothed, polished, and striated. They prove that a thick body of ice once passed down the glen, and ground out its sides and bottom. On the right hand, the river Spean brawls and foams in a narrow ravine which, since the ice retired, it has cut for itself through the same hard schist (p. 178). One could not find a better contrast of the results produced by the different denuding agents. Along the roadway all is rounded and smoothed as the ice left it; in the ravine below everything is angular and rugged; rains, springs, and frosts are there busy splitting up the schist along its numerous joints, and pushing large blocks of it into the river, where they are dashed against each other and slowly worn away.

Farther up the glen, the ice-worn aspect of the rocks becomes still more striking. When the observer reaches a point opposite the mouth of Glen Treig, he finds that the striæ on the rocks, instead of running down the valley, actually mount the hill to the north, while the glen is cumbered with huge ramparts of glacier rubbish. It was this piece of scenery which so powerfully impressed Agassiz in his first