

on the landscape, for it gives to their floor and their lower slopes a smoothness which the bare rock would not have furnished, and, by presenting itself in bold bare scars and steep grassy slopes along the course of each stream, it redeems the scenery from the featurelessness which would otherwise characterise it.

But the most prominent part taken by the boulder-clay in the configuration of the southern counties of Scotland, or, indeed, in any part of the country, is to be seen in the south of Galloway. This remarkable deposit, which everywhere shows a tendency to arrange itself in parallel mounds, has there carried out this tendency on a great scale, and with a distinctness not elsewhere reached. The ground is partly entirely free of drift, and its ice-worn bosses of bare rock project nakedly out of the moor and boulders around them. In marked contrast to them are the long mounds and ridges or 'drums' of boulder-clay which are distinguished by their perfectly smooth green grassy surfaces. They are not mere fragments of a once continuous deposit cut into their shapes by denudation. That their peculiar and characteristic forms are original is made quite evident by the parallelism of their long axes with the direction of the ice-striæ on the surrounding rocks. They undoubtedly point to some arrangement of the detritus under the ice-sheet, in the same line as that in which the ice itself was moving. The nature and history of boulder-clay will be further alluded to in Chapter XVII.

The boulders left by the ice-sheet form a notable feature in the south-western half of the uplands, though they are comparatively inconspicuous in the north-eastern part. The granite hills of Galloway have furnished millions of blocks that have been scattered all over the country, from heights of 2000 feet down to the sea-level and below it. A remarkable stream of such boulders, for example, may be traced from