

## CHAPTER XVIII

### THE LATEST MODIFICATIONS OF SCOTTISH SCENERY

BESIDES the effects of denudation all over the surface of the land, from the tops of the highest hills down to the level of the sea, whereby the aspect of the surface is undergoing continual alteration, other changes have considerably modified the appearance of many districts, since the last glaciers died out and the long Ice Age came to an end. Some of these have been brought about by an intermittent rise of the country above its previous level, whereby a selvage of new land has been added to some parts of the coast. Other modifications have arisen from the growth and decay of vegetation in the interior of the country. In the one case, we have the phenomenon of raised beaches, in the other, that of peat-mosses. To each of these characteristic features of the scenery some attention is due.

That there were movements of the land during the Glacial period in Britain is almost certain, though, as I have already said, the evidence formerly relied upon to prove great submergence is not now satisfactory. Not improbably the general level of the country at some time in the course of that long period was considerably higher than it is now. But we know that towards the close of the time,