

smoothed over, the pre-glacial soils and covering of weathered rock were in large measure ground up and pushed away, the valleys were correspondingly deepened and widened, and the plains were strewn with ice-borne débris. It is obvious that the influence of the moving ice-sheets has been far from uniform upon the rocks exposed to it, this variation arising from the differences in powers of resistance of the rocks on the one hand, and in the mass, slope and grinding power of the ice on the other. Over the lowlands, as in central Scotland and much of the north German plain, the rocks are for the most part concealed under deep glacial débris. But in the more undulating hilly ground, particularly in the north and northwest, the ice has effected the most extraordinary abrasion. It is hardly possible, indeed, to describe adequately in words these regions of most intense glaciation. The old gneiss of Norway and Sutherlandshire, for example, has been so eroded, smoothed, and polished, that it stands up in endless rounded hummocks, many of them still smoothed and curved like dolphins' backs, with little pools, tarns, and larger lakes lying between them. Seen from a height the ground appears like a billowy sea of cold gray stone. The lakes, each lying in a hollow of erosion, seem scattered broadcast over the landscape. So enduring is the rock, that, even after the lapse of so long an interval, it retains its ice-worn aspect almost as unimpaired as if the work of the glacier had been done only a few generations since.<sup>5</sup> The abundant smoothed and striated rock-basin lakes of the northern parts of Europe and North America are a striking evidence of ice-action (p. 723, and Book VII. "Watersheds"). The phenomenon of "giants'

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<sup>5</sup> Some of these roches moutonnées may be of Palæozoic age (Nature, August, 1880).