

der-clay of Britain was formed. The glaciers of the Alps once more marched outward over the lower grounds, but without descending so far as before. Their limits are marked by an inner group of moraines.

From its second maximum the ice-sheet gradually shrank backward, though probably not without occasional pauses and even advances. As it retreated from the lower grounds it lost the aspect of a continuous ice-sheet, and when it reached the bases of the mountains it eventually separated into valley-glaciers radiating from each principal mass of high ground. In this condition also there was probably a long period of oscillation, the glaciers alternately descending and shrinking backward with variations in the seasons. In Britain there is abundant evidence of this stage in the history of the Ice Age. The Scottish Highlands, being the largest area of high ground in the country, was the chief seat of the ice. Not only did every group of mountains nourish its own glaciers; even small islands, such as Arran and Hoy, had their snow-fields, whence glaciers crept down into the valleys and shed their moraines. It would appear indeed that some of the northern glaciers continued to reach the sea-level even when the land had there risen to near or quite its present elevation. On the east side of Sutherlandshire, at Brora, and on the west side of Ross-shire, at Loch Torridon, the moraines descend to the 50-foot raised beach; at the head of Loch Eriboll, they come down to the sea-level and even extend underneath the water, showing that the glacier at the head of that fjord actually pushed its way into the sea, and no doubt calved its icebergs there.

Another proof of the magnitude of some of the ice-streams that filled the valleys of the Scottish Highlands during the later stages of the Glacial Period is supplied by