

to the flanks of the Jura mountains,¹ and thus to demonstrate the former great extension of the Swiss glaciers. It was reserved, however, for Agassiz to perceive the wide significance of the facts observed, and to start the investigations that culminated in the recognition of an Ice Age which involved the whole of the northern part of our hemisphere, and in the voluminous literature which has recorded the rapid progress of this department of geology.

Jean Louis Rodolphe Agassiz (1807-1873) was born in Switzerland, and rose to distinction by his scientific work in Europe, but he went to the United States when he was still only forty-two years of age, and spent the last twenty-seven years of his life as an energetic and successful leader of science in his adopted home. His fame is thus both European and American, and the geologists of New England, not less than those of Switzerland, may claim him as one of their most distinguished worthies.

We must pass over the brilliant researches into the history of fossil fishes, which placed the name of Agassiz high among the palæontologists of Europe when he was still a young man. What we are more particularly concerned with here is the share he had in founding the modern school of glacial geology. As far back as the summer of 1836 he was induced to visit the glaciers of the Diablerets and Chamounix, and the great moraines of the Rhone valley, under the guidance of Charpentier, whose views as to the former extension of the ice he was disposed to doubt

¹ *Schweizer. Gesell. Verhandl.* 1834, p. 23; *Ann. des Mines*, viii. (1835) p. 219; *Leonhard und Bronn, Neues Jahrb.* 1837, p. 472.