

this deduction certain theoretical statements regarding former climates and faunas, which have not been supported by subsequent research.

The main conclusions which the Swiss naturalist drew, so greatly interested him that he spent part of five successive summers investigating the vestiges of the old glaciers, and the operations of those of the present time. He convinced himself that the great extension of the ice was connected with the last great geological changes on the surface of the globe, and with the extinction of the large pachyderms, whose remains are so abundant in Siberia. He believed that the glaciers did not advance from the Alps into the plains, but rather that ice once covered all the lower grounds, and finally retreated into the mountains.

Having arrived at these conclusions from studies in his native country, Agassiz was naturally desirous to see how far his views could be tested or confirmed in a region far removed from any existing glaciers. Accordingly, in the year 1840, three years after his address at Neufchâtel, he had an opportunity of visiting Britain, and took advantage of it to examine a considerable part of Scotland, the north of England, and the north, centre, west, and south-west of Ireland. The results of this investigation were of remarkable influence in the progress of glacial geology. Agassiz demonstrated the identity of the phenomena in Britain with those in Switzerland, and claimed "that not only glaciers once existed in the British Islands, but that large sheets (*nappes*) of ice covered all the surface."¹

¹ *Proc. Geol. Soc.* vol. iii. (1840) p. 331.