

NORWAY AND ITS GLACIERS.*

THERE is a striking resemblance in form and aspect between the Scandinavian races of Denmark, Sweden, and Norway, and the people of the north-eastern coasts of Scotland. The resemblance, however, is not restricted to the races ;—it extends also to the countries which they inhabit. The general features of Denmark and Sweden are very much those of the southern districts of our own country,—mayhap rather tamer on the whole, from a less ample development of the trap-rocks. And in Norway we have, if we except a small portion of its southern extremity, simply a huge repetition of the Western Highlands of Scotland : it is a Highlands roughened by greater hills, and intersected by deeper and more extensive lochs, and prolonged far beyond the Arctic circle. In, however, their physical conditions, both Norway and the Highlands are wonderfully alike ; but with this interesting difference, that some of the great agents which modified, in the remote past, the form of the rougher portions of our country, and regarding which we can only speculate and theorize, are still in active operation in Norway. The loftier Norwegian mountains rise to nearly twice the height of Ben Macdhui and Ben Nevis ; the country, too, stretches about twelve degrees farther to the north than Cape Wrath, and runs more than three hundred miles within the Arctic circle. And so it has its permanent snow-fields and its great glaciers, that are in the present day casting up their moraines, lateral and transverse, and grooving and rounding the rocks beneath, just as

* Norway and its Glaciers visited in 1851, &c. By James D. Forbes, D.C.L., F.R.S., Sec. R.S., Ed., &c. &c., and Professor of Natural Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh.