

angular gravel, formed of the barren primary rocks, and identical with the angular gravels still in the course of forming under the attrition of the glaciers of Norway and the Alps. And *it* speaks of the ice-period of death, when the country had its permanent snow-fields and its great glaciers. Next in order, immediately over the dead gravel, there occurs usually a thin stratum of mossy soil, bearing its tier of buried stumps,—the representatives of an age of vegetable life when the Highlands were what Norway is now,—a scene of wide-spreading forests. And then over all, to the depth often of six or eight feet, we find, as representative of a second and permanent period of death, a cold, spongy, ungenial peat-moss, in which nothing of value to man finds root, save, mayhap, a few scattered spikes of deer-grass, that, springing early, furnish the flocks of the shepherd with a week or two's provision, just as the summer begins. But for every agricultural purpose these mossy wastes are in their effete and sterile old age, and the yearly famines show how the poor settlers upon them fare. Man failed to appropriate them during their cheerful season of youth and life; and over wide tracts they are dead,—past resuscitation now. In Norway, with all its bleakness, the chances in favour of the people are better. The Norwegians have escaped the curse of clanship; and the country, still in the vigour of youth, is parcelled out among many proprietors, who till the lands which they inherit. Even in its wild animals, Norway is a larger Scotland, post-dated some ten or fifteen centuries. It has the identical beaver, bear, and wolf, still living in its forests, whose remains are occasionally found in our mosses and marl-pits.

In another respect, however, Norway resembles our country at a greatly earlier time than that of the primeval forests. Its long line of western coast, with its many islands and long withdrawing fiords, presents everywhere the appearance of a land not yet fairly arisen out of the sea. The islands are