

The shells of the boulder-clay correspond in the group, not to the present shells of Scotland, but to the present shells of Iceland and the Northern Cape.

Further, we are not left merely to infer that icebergs *could* or *might* have grooved and worn down the rocks of the country: we learn from Sir Charles Lyell,—unquestionably a competent observer,—that he caught icebergs almost in the very fact of grooving and wearing down similar rocks. In his first work of *Travels through the United States*, he describes a visit which he paid to the coast of Nova Scotia, near Cape Blomidon:—‘As I was strolling along the beach,’ he says, ‘at the base of a line of basaltic cliffs, which rise over ledges of soft sandstone, I stopped short at the sight of an unexpected phenomenon. The solitary inhabitant of a desert island could scarcely have been more startled by a human footprint in the sand than I was on beholding some recent furrows on a ledge of sandstone under my feet, the exact counterpart of those grooves of ancient date which I have so often attributed to glacial action. . . . On a recently-formed ledge I saw several straight furrows half an inch broad, some of them very nearly parallel, others slightly divergent; and, after walking about a quarter of a mile, I found another set of similar furrows, having the same general direction within about five degrees; and I made up my mind that, if these grooves could not be referred to the modern instrumentality of ice, it would throw no small doubt on the glacial hypothesis. When I asked my guide, a peasant of the neighbourhood, whether he had ever seen much ice on the spot where we stood, the heat was so excessive (for we were in the latitude of the south of France, 45 degrees north), that I seemed to be putting a strange question. He replied, that in the preceding winter [that of 1841] he had seen the ice, in spite of the tide, which ran at the rate of ten miles an hour, extending in one uninterrupted mass from the shore where we