

débris ; almost every prominence on the mountain-sides is rounded by the long protracted action of the ice ; and in many instances the surfaces of the rocks bear the characteristic groovings and scratchings as distinctly as if it had performed its work upon them but yesterday. Let me, however, repeat the remark, that the iceberg and glacial theories, so far from being antagonistic, ought rather to be regarded as equally indispensable parts of one and the same theory, —parts which, when separated, leave a vast amount of residual phenomena to puzzle and perplex, that we find fully accounted for by their conjunction. And why not conjoin them ? The fact that more than four thousand square miles of the interior of Iceland are covered by glaciers, is in no degree invalidated by the kindred fact that its shores are visited every spring by hundreds of thousands of icebergs.

The glaciers of Scotland have, like its icebergs, contributed their distinctive quota to the scenery of the country. The smoothed and rounded prominences of the hills, bare and grey amid the scanty heath, and that often after a sudden shower gleam bright to the sun, like the sides and bows of windward-beating vessels wet by the spray of a summer gale, form well-marked features in the landscapes of the north-western parts of Sutherland and Ross, especially in the gneiss and quartz-rock districts. The lesser islets, too, of these tracts, whether they rise in some solitary lochan among the hills, or in some arm of the sea that deeply indents the coast, still bear the rounded form originally communicated by the ice, and in some instances remind the traveller of huge whales heaving their smooth backs over the brine. Further, we not unfrequently see the general outline of the mountains affected ;—all their peaks and precipices curved backwards in the direction *whence* the glacier descended, and more angular and abrupt in the direction *towards which* it descended. But it is in those groups of