

and soon neared the drifting ice-floe. It was ultimately seen, however, that the supposed man was but the Danish obelisk, bearing on its head a mysterious bonnet; and bonnet and obelisk were left to find their way to the German Ocean, in which it is probable they now both lie. These modern instances of boulder travelling may serve to show how huge stones originally associated with the boulder-clay may have come to rest on the arenaceous or gravelly deposits which overlie it. Through the second voyage of the Petty boulder, it was deposited on a recently formed bed of sand; and the standing-stone of Torboll may now rest on sea-shells that were living half a century ago.

It is held by geologists of high standing, that after the period of submergence represented by the boulder-clays of our country, the British islands were elevated to such a height over the sea-level, that their distinctive character as islands was lost, and the area which they occupy united to the main land in the character of a western prolongation of the great European continent. It was at this period, says Professor Edward Forbes, that Britain and Ireland received, over the upraised bed of the German Ocean, their Germanic flora,—the last acquired of the five floras which compose their vegetation. The evidence on the point, however, still seems somewhat meagre. I can have no doubt that the land stood considerably higher during this Post-Tertiary period than it does now. As shown by the dressed surfaces and rounded forms of many of the smaller islets of the north-western coasts of Scotland, and the markings at the bottom of its lochs and estuaries, and on the rocks along their shores, the latter glaciers must have descended from the central hills of the country far below the present sea-level; and we find some of the transverse moraines which they ploughed up before them in their descent existing as gravelly spits, that rise amid the waves, in the middle of long firths or at the entrance of deep bays. I have seen, too, on rocky coasts,