

Invested with a keen diffusive sky,
 Breathing the soul acute ; her forests huge,
 Incult, robust, and tall, by Nature's hand
 Planted of old ; her azure lakes between,
 Pour'd out extensive, and of watery wealth
 Full ; winding deep and green, her fertile vales,
 With many a cool, translucent, brimming flood
 Wash'd lovely, from the Tweed (pure parent stream,
 Whose pastoral banks first heard my Doric reed,
 With, sylvan Jed, thy tributary brook),
 To where the North's inflated tempest foams
 O'er Orcas or Betubium's highest peak.'

Let us in like manner attempt calling up the features of our country in one continuous landscape, as they appeared at the commencement of the glacial period, just as the paroxysm of depression had come on, and bold headland and steep iron-bound islet had begun slowly to settle into the sea.

The general outline is that of Scotland, though harsher and more rugged than now, for it lacks the softening integument of the subsoils. Yonder are the Grampians, and yonder the Cheviots, and, deeply indenting the shores, yonder are the well-known estuaries and bays,—the firths of Forth, Tay, and Moray, and the long withdrawing lakes, Loch Katrine, and Loch Awe, and Loch Maree, and the far-gleaming waters of the deep Caledonian Valley, the Ness, and the Oich, and the Lochy. But though the summer sun looks down upon the scene, the snow-line descends beneath the top of even our second-class mountains ; and the tall beetling Ben Nevis, and graceful Ben Lomond, and the broad-based Ben Muich Dhui, glitter in the sunshine, in their coats of dazzling white, from their summits half-way down to their bases. There are extended forests of the native fir on the lower plains, mingled with the slimmer forms and more richly-tinted foliage of the spruce pine. On the upper grounds, thickets of stunted willows and straggling