

downs right and left, it forms pinnacles, caves, broken angular boulders? Syenite usually does so in our damp climate, from the weathering effect of frost and rain; why has it not done so over the lake? On that part something (giants perhaps) has been scrambling up and down on a very large scale, and so rubbed off every corner which was inclined to come away, till the solid core of the rock was bared. And may not these mysterious giants have had a hand in carrying the stones across the lake? . . . Really I am not altogether jesting. Think a while, what agent could possibly have produced either one or both of these effects?

‘There is but one; and that, if you have been an Alpine traveller, much more if you have been a chamois-hunter, you have seen many a time (whether you knew it or not) at the very same work.

‘Ice! Yes; ice. Hrymin the frost-giant, and no one else. And if you look at the facts, you will see how ice may have done it. Our friend John Jones’ report of plains and bogs, and a lake above, makes it quite possible that in the ice-age (glacial epoch, as the big-word-mongers call it), there was above that cliff a great neve or snow-field, such as you have seen often in the Alps at the head of each glacier. Over the face of this cliff, a glacier had crawled down from that neve, polishing the face of the rock in its descent; but the snow, having no large and deep outlet, has not slid down in a sufficient stream to reach the vale below, and form a glacier of the first order, and has therefore stopped short on the other side of the lake, as a glacier of the second order, which ends in an ice-cliff hanging high up on the mountain side, and kept from further progress by daily melting. If you have ever gone up the Mer-de-Glace to the Tacul, you saw a magnificent specimen of the sort on your right hand, just opposite the Tacul, in the Glacier de Trélaporte, which comes down from the Aiguille de Charmoz.