valley of the Rhone, spread across the area, now filled by the Lake of Geneva and all the lowlands of Switzerland, in a vast fan-like form, a hundred and twenty-five miles in width from below Geneva to the neighbourhood of Aarau, and deposited part of its terminal moraine on the slopes of the Jura behind Neuchâtel, 2,200 feet above the level of the lake. The famous Pierre à Bot, 50 feet long by 20 feet wide, and 40 feet in height, forms one of a belt of moraine blocks at a height of about 800 feet above the level of the lake of Neuchâtel. Every Alpine valley, whether in the heart of the mountains, or on the northern slopes opening into the lowlands of Switzerland, or on the wide plains of Italy that lie between the Alps and the Po, tells the same story; and the old glacier of the Dora Baltea, about a hundred miles in length, which from Mont Blanc to beyond Ivrea filled the whole valley of Aosta, has left on the plains of Italy a vast moraine 60 miles in circumference, more than 1,600 feet in height, and in places 6 or 7 miles in width. The signs of vanished gigantic glaciers constantly strike the practised eye, and are indeed frequently as fresh as if the glacier had scarcely left the rocks before the existing vegetation began to grow upon their surfaces.

Such being the case in the Alps and other regions where we are able to study the action of modern glaciers in detail, we have next to inquire—Is there anything further to learn in regions where glaciers are found on a far greater scale? Those who have read the descriptions of navigators will be aware that in Greenland the average snow-line, as a whole, descends lower and lower as we go northward, till at length the whole interior of the country becomes covered by one snow-field, which, pressing seaward from the interior, gives