Modern Large Glaciers.

birth to a prodigious number of large glaciers, many of which protrude far into the Fiords, while very many others on a smaller scale descend directly into the sea from the mountains on either side. In other cases, as on straight parts of the coast of Melville Bay, the glacier-ice crowns the cliffs for miles, and breaking off in masses, falls in cataracts of small-shivered icebergs into the sea, grinding and smoothing the rock as they descend. But in the same region when broad valleys open out towards the sea, then it frequently happens that prodigious glaciers push their way out far beyond the shore. These are in some cases 12 or 20 miles across at their ends, and in the case of the great Humboldt glacier, 60 miles across, ending in a cliff of ice in places 300 feet in height. One of these vast glaciers has been estimated as being at the very least 3,000 feet in thickness. Great masses of ice breaking away from their ends form icebergs, which, sometimes laden with moraine rubbish, like that which partly covers the glaciers of Switzerland, float out into the Greenland seas, and are carried south by a current in Baffin's Bay. Not infrequently icebergs float far into the Atlantic, beyond the parallel of New York, and they have been seen even off the Azores.

Along the shores also, when the sea freezes, the ice becomes attached to the coast. By-and-by, as summer comes on, the ice partly breaks away, leaving what is called an *ice-foot* still joined to the land. Vast quantities of débris during part of the year fall from the cliffs, and are lodged upon the ice-foot, and when it breaks off and floats away and melts, the rubbish is strewn about, and accumulates on the bottom of Baffin's Bay. In like manner the icebergs melt chiefly in Baffin's Bay, but sometimes escaping from thence and melting

370