

Bay. This I shall presently prove, for having brought our ice so far south, it is now time to explain the part played by the mountains of Wales in this glacial history.

When glaciers first began to form among the mountains of the Highlands of Scotland, from 200 to 300 miles north of Wales, though the heights of the latter region may have been far more snowy than they ever are now, yet at first it is probable that the snow did not continue through the year, and therefore no glaciers were formed. But in time, as the great glaciers advanced, and the cold increased and snow in North Wales became perennial, then glaciers began to be formed, first in the high valleys in the upper recesses of the mountains; and as the climate and precipitation of snow grew more severe, these glaciers must have waxed in size, till at length they filled all the valleys, and intruded on the plains and low undulating grounds beyond. How far south they extended from the mountains of Merionethshire I do not know, but probably the ice-flow went far into South Wales. Neither is it possible to say how far these early glaciers of Snowdonia stretched across the broad undulations of Anglesea, for, if they did so, the marks that they made were afterwards entirely obliterated by the onward march of the great northern glacier which I have already described, and which I have no doubt extended southward into St. George's Channel. In aid of this statement I would quote the opinion of the Reverend M. Close, and the later observations of Professor Hull. The central plain of Ireland forms a great basin, surrounded by the broken mountains of the south from Kerry to Wicklow, and of the west and north-west from Galway to Donegal.