

modern times, as dependent on its geology. I have described the classification of all the formations in serial order, and showed the distribution of these rocks over our country, and in doing this I have tried to give a sketch of the physical geography of our area, during the deposition of each successive group of formations. At various times they have all been affected by disturbances and denudations, and the grand result is, that where most disturbed, hardened, and denuded, there we have mountainous districts; for the greater prominence and ruggedness of surface of these regions, arises partly from the hardness of the igneous, metamorphic, and common stratified rocks, partly from the denudations which they have undergone. The Secondary and Tertiary rocks being younger and not so much disturbed, have in our country not been so much denuded, and therefore generally form plains and tablelands.

Moreover, we saw that over all these surfaces, in addition to the vast amount of erosion which must have been effected in Palæozoic, Secondary, and older Tertiary times, renewed denudations, accompanied by great cold, occurred at a very late epoch. The result of this abrasion has been to cover the surface more or less with loose superficial detritus, upon which part of the fertility of portions of the country and the peculiarity of some of its soils depend.

I then passed on to notice what I considered to be a very remarkable result of this last great denudation, brought about under the influence of ice, by which the chief part—I by no means say all—but by which the chief part of the lakes of our country have been formed; and not of our country alone, but of a large part of the northern, and I have no doubt also of the southern hemisphere. It is a remarkable thing, indeed, to con-