

## CHAPTER IV

### GLACIERS AND ICEBERGS

UP to this point, the tools of earth-sculpture which we have been considering are all such as can be seen in actual operation in Scotland at the present time. In some cases, indeed, the vigour with which they are plied here is much less than in other parts of the world. Great as is the amount of wasted rock carried into the sea by an exceptionally heavy flood or 'spate' in this country, it is small, indeed, when contrasted with the rivers of mud which, during the rainy season in tropical climates, sweep down from the land, and help to heap up the long alluvial bars that, for such vast spaces, keep the sea, as it were, barred off from the land. Again, we should have but a limited conception of the potency of frost if we took, as our type of its action, merely what we can here observe from winter to winter. Still, the action is the same in kind everywhere, and no one who has thoroughly observed it as it goes on in his own country, can have much difficulty in realising what it must be in other parts of the world.

But all the tools which nature has used in the carving of the earth's surface are not to be seen now at work in Britain. Notably is this true of one which, at a date not by any