

over which it moved. No one can view these scenes without being powerfully impressed with the evidence that the modern Scandinavian glaciers are the mere shrunk remnants of those which once filled up the fjords for hundreds of feet above the present sea-level, buried all the lower hills, and marched boldly out into the Atlantic.

Now, there can be no doubt that Scotland once nourished glaciers in all her larger glens, as Norway still does, for the ice-marks are hardly less distinct than they are among the northern fjords. But there was still an earlier time, when not only were the valleys filled with local glaciers, but when the whole country was swathed in snow and ice. The evidence for this condition of things will be stated in later chapters. To realise what was the condition of this country when the ice-fields that lay upon it were thickest, we must turn still farther north. The present aspect of the northern and eastern parts of Greenland probably presents a close parallel to the condition of Scotland at the height of what is known as the Ice Age or Glacial Period. The interior of that tract of country is deeply buried under one vast sheet of snow and ice, which, constantly augmented by fresh snowfalls, moves steadily downward from the axis of the continent to the eastern and western shores. This vast *mer de glace* sweeps inland, league after league, in one interminable glacier, broken only here and there by some black hill-top or mountain peak, that rises as an island out of the snow. It covers the face of the country to a depth of hundreds, or even, in some places, thousands of feet, filling up the valleys, mounting over the hills, and pressing with constant resistless force upon all the rocks over which it marches, till it reaches the sea, into which it protrudes a long way from the shore, rising above the waves as a solid glassy wall, sometimes more than three hundred feet high,